SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS
10c
FEB. NO. 80

ALL NEW STORIES

Wonder Woman

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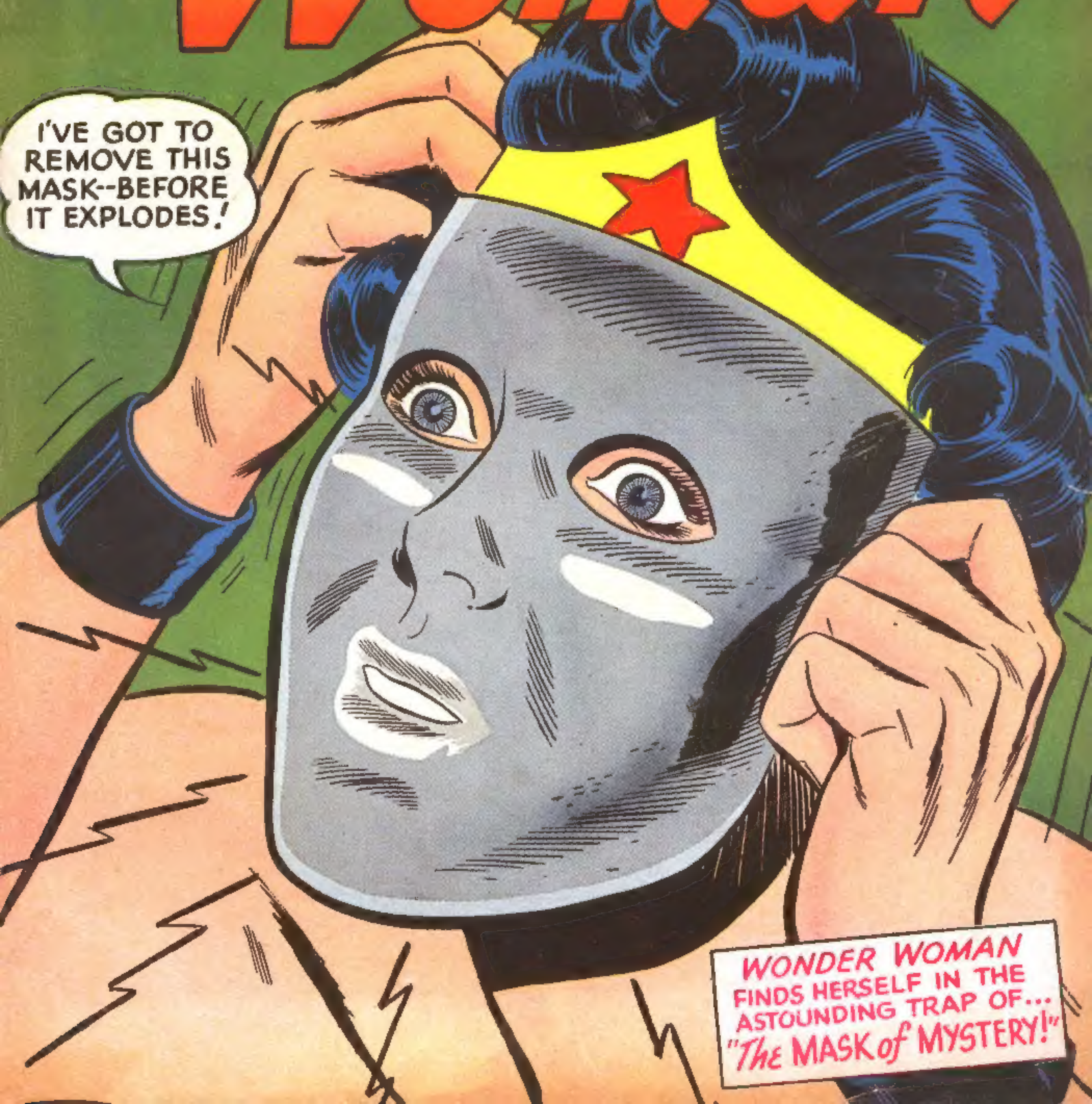
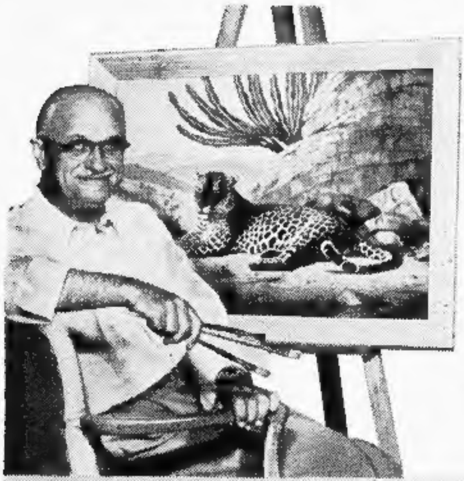

I'VE GOT TO REMOVE THIS MASK--BEFORE IT EXPLODES!

WONDER WOMAN FINDS HERSELF IN THE ASTOUNDING TRAP OF... "The MASK of MYSTERY!"



Do you like to draw, sketch or paint? You may have more talent than you suspect. With training, it's possible you could build a fascinating and profitable career in advertising art, illustrating or cartooning.

I urge you to try for this FREE ART SCHOLARSHIP. You just make a sketch of the famous "Draw Me" girl. Over a million individuals have drawn this girl. Many successful artists today got their start just this way.

W. J. Hilverding

Well known for his paintings of wild animals—and for his African safaris with paint brush and camera. Director of Education for the art school, Art Instruction, Inc.

Draw me...

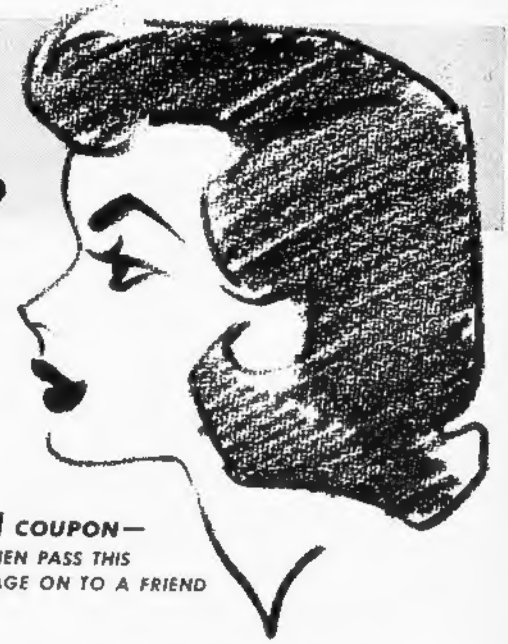
TRY FOR A FREE 2-YEAR ART SCHOLARSHIP WORTH $335⁰⁰

This scholarship gives you two years of free training for an art career. You're trained by professional artists. You get individual coaching and guidance.

As prize-winner, you also receive a complete *Professional Drawing Outfit* — and valuable *Art Textbooks* to which over 40 leading artists have contributed.

Scholarship is offered by the world's largest home study art school, founded forty years ago. Many of its graduates are successful artists today. The same training they received is now free as a prize! Here's all you do:

Draw the girl's head 5 inches high. Use pencil only. All drawings must be received by January 31, 1956. None returned. Winner notified. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Mail your drawing today!



USE 1 COUPON—
THEN PASS THIS
PAGE ON TO A FRIEND

3 ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 12505
500 South 4th St. • Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name__________ AGE_____
Address__________ Phone_____
City__________ Zone____ County_____
State_______ Occupation_______

1 ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 12505
500 South 4th St. • Minneapolis 15, Minn.

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(PLEASE PRINT)

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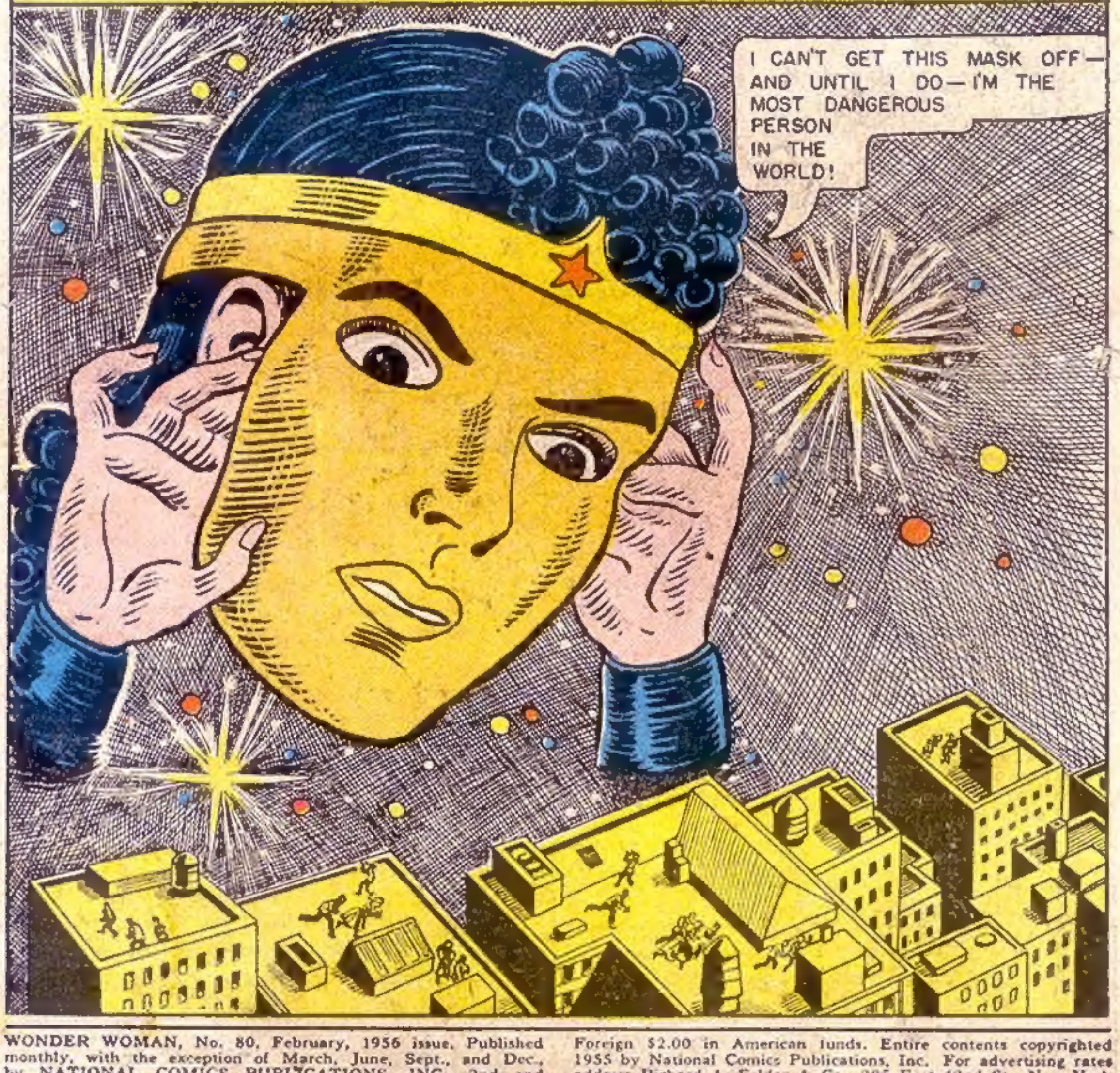
Address__________ Phone_____
City__________ Zone____ County_____
State_______ Occupation_______

Wonder Woman

By CHARLES MOULTON

WONDER WOMAN—BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, WISE AS ATHENA, SWIFTER THAN MERCURY, AND STRONGER THAN HERCULES—THE FIGHTING AMAZON WHOSE AID IN BATTLING CRIME AND INJUSTICE IS SOUGHT THE WORLD OVER—NOW FINDS HERSELF CAST IN THE ROLE OF A MENACE THREATENING EVERYONE—WHEN SHE WAKES UP TO FIND HERSELF WEARING -------

"The MASK of MYSTERY!"


I CAN'T GET THIS MASK OFF—AND UNTIL I DO—I'M THE MOST DANGEROUS PERSON IN THE WORLD!

WONDER WOMAN, No. 80, February, 1956 issue. Published monthly, with the exception of March, June, Sept., and Dec., by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd and DICKEY STREETS, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial and Executive offices at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER at the post office at Sparta, Ill., under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. $1.00 including postage. Foreign $2.00 in American funds.

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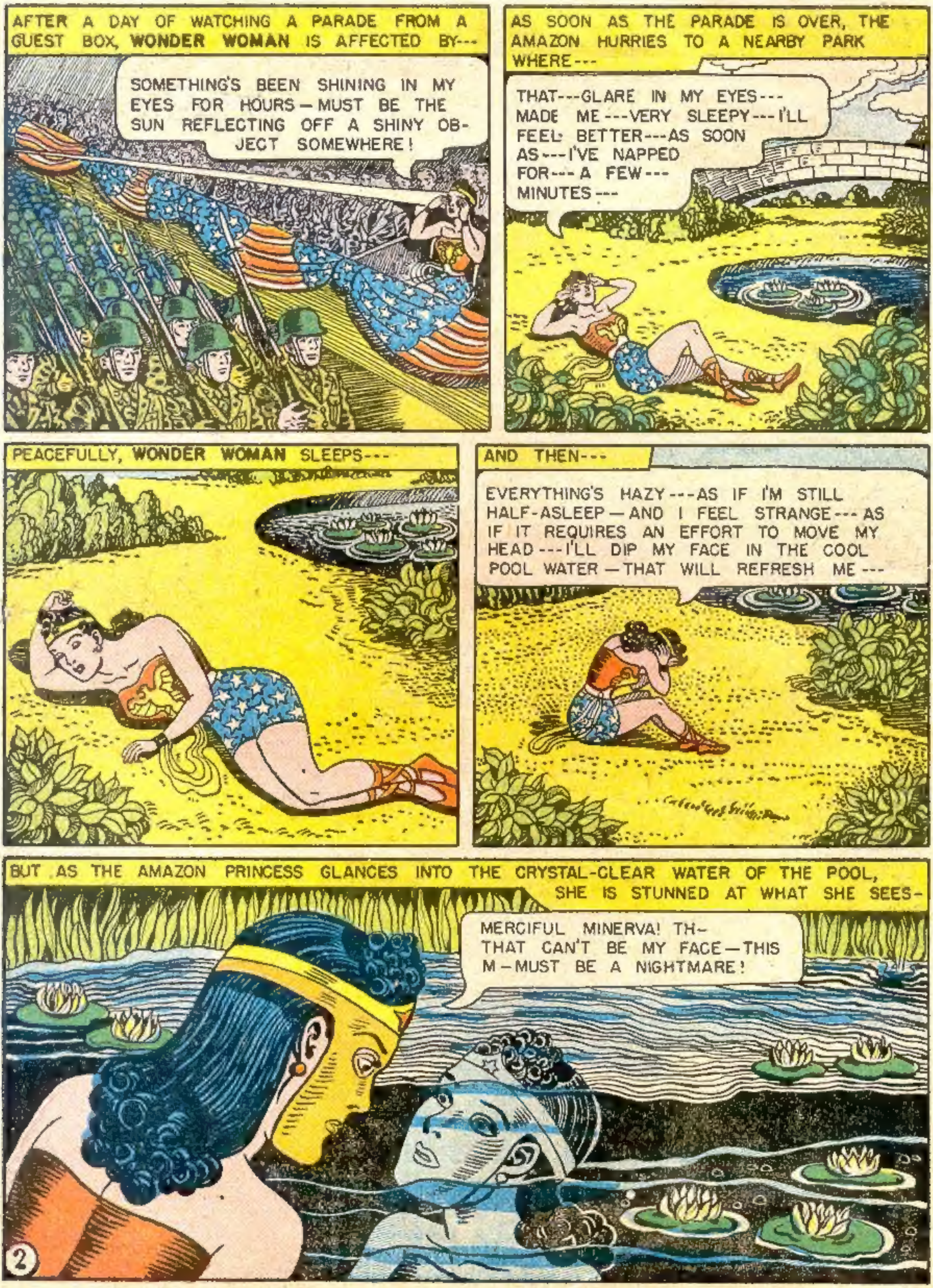
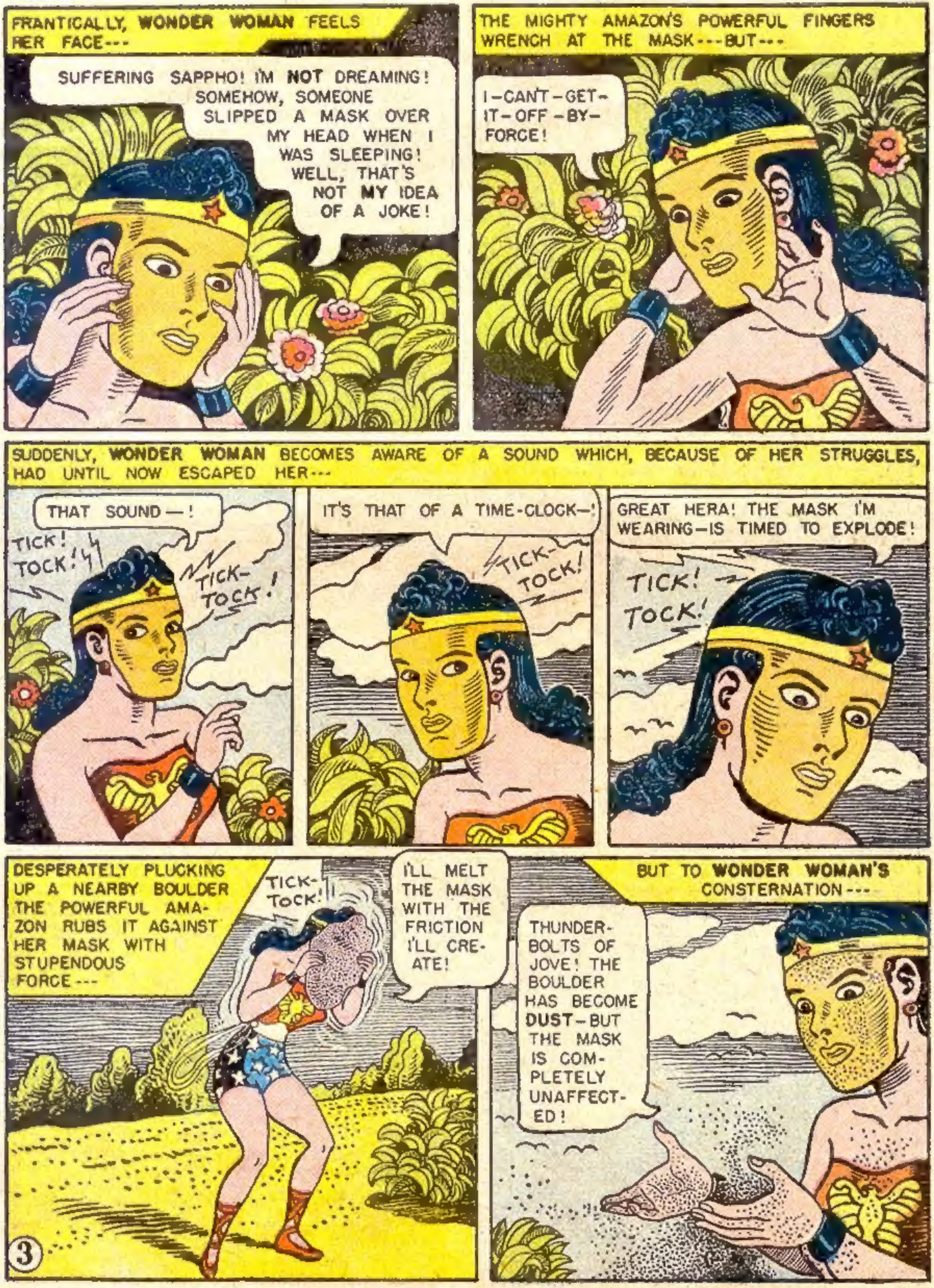
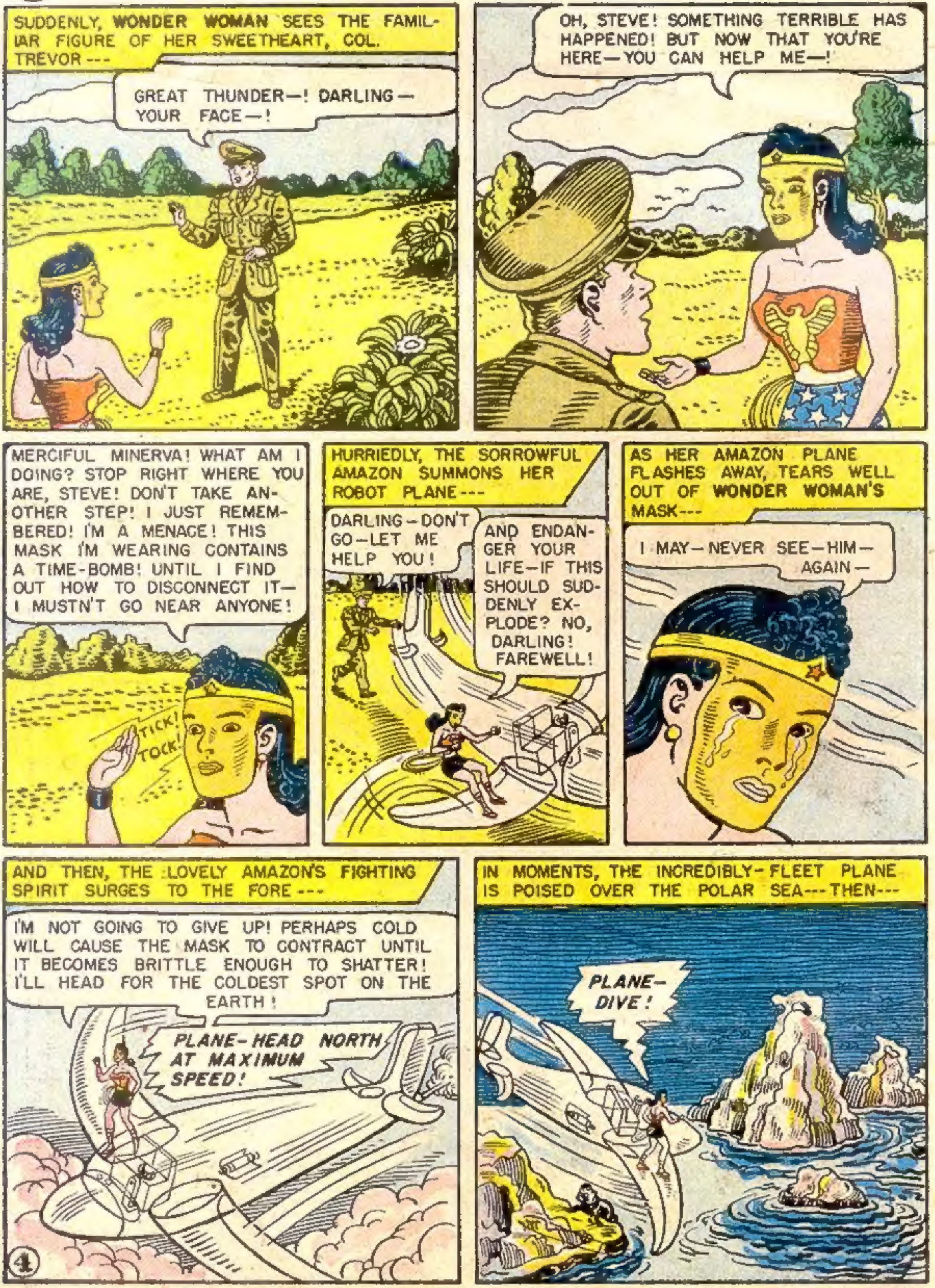
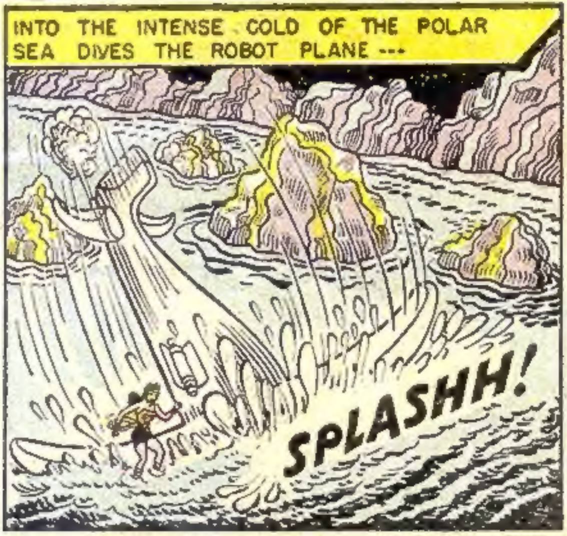
Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

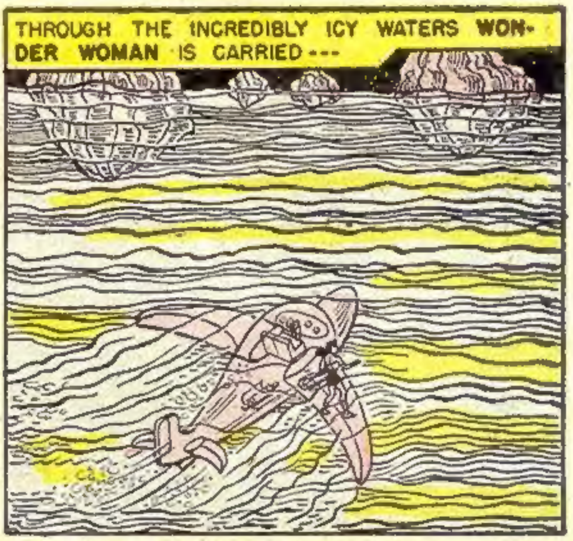
Printed in U.S.A.

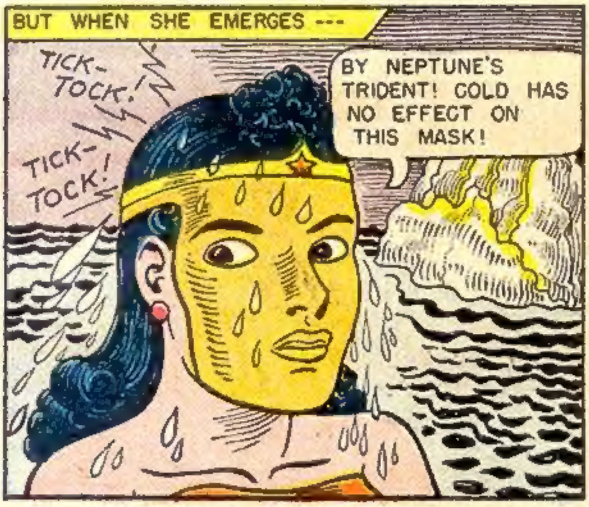

AFTER A DAY OF WATCHING A PARADE FROM A GUEST BOX, WONDER WOMAN IS AFFECTED BY---
SOMETHING'S BEEN SHINING IN MY EYES FOR HOURS—MUST BE THE SUN REFLECTING OFF A SHINY OBJECT SOMEWHERE!
AS SOON AS THE PARADE IS OVER, THE AMAZON HURRIES TO A NEARBY PARK WHERE---
THAT---GLARE IN MY EYES---MADE ME---VERY SLEEPY---I'LL FEEL BETTER---AS SOON AS---I'VE NAPPED FOR---A FEW---MINUTES---
PEACEFULLY, WONDER WOMAN SLEEPS---
AND THEN---
EVERYTHING'S HAZY---AS IF I'M STILL HALF-ASLEEP—AND I FEEL STRANGE---AS IF IT REQUIRES AN EFFORT TO MOVE MY HEAD---I'LL DIP MY FACE IN THE COOL POOL WATER—THAT WILL REFRESH ME---
BUT AS THE AMAZON PRINCESS GLANCES INTO THE CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER OF THE POOL, SHE IS STUNNED AT WHAT SHE SEES-
MERCIFUL MINERVA! TH-THAT CAN'T BE MY FACE—THIS M—MUST BE A NIGHTMARE!

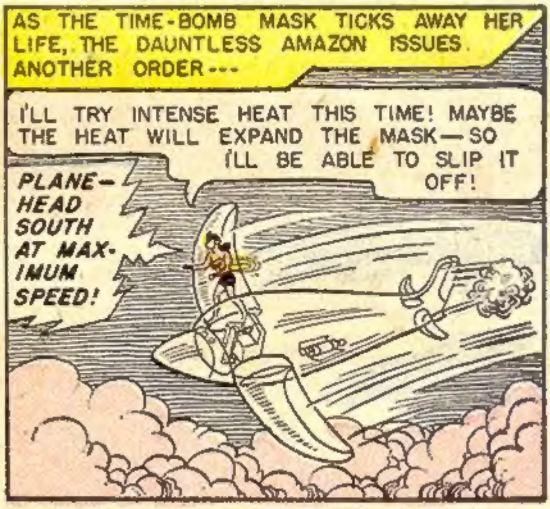

FRANTICALLY, WONDER WOMAN FEELS HER FACE---
SUFFERING SAPPHO! I'M NOT DREAMING! SOMEHOW, SOMEONE SLIPPED A MASK OVER MY HEAD WHEN I WAS SLEEPING! WELL, THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF A JOKE!
THE MIGHTY AMAZON'S POWERFUL FINGERS WRENCH AT THE MASK---BUT---
I-CAN'T-GET-IT-OFF-BY-FORCE!
SUDDENLY, WONDER WOMAN BECOMES AWARE OF A SOUND WHICH, BECAUSE OF HER STRUGGLES, HAD UNTIL NOW ESCAPED HER---
THAT SOUND—!
TICK! TOCK!
TICK-TOCK!
IT'S THAT OF A TIME-CLOCK—!
TICK-TOCK!
GREAT HERA! THE MASK I'M WEARING—IS TIMED TO EXPLODE!
TICK! TOCK!
DESPERATELY PLUCKING UP A NEARBY BOULDER THE POWERFUL AMAZON RUBS IT AGAINST HER MASK WITH STUPENDOUS FORCE---
TICK-TOCK!
I'LL MELT THE MASK WITH THE FRICTION I'LL CREATE!
BUT TO WONDER WOMAN'S CONSTERNATION---
THUNDERBOLTS OF JOVE! THE BOULDER HAS BECOME DUST—BUT THE MASK IS COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED!

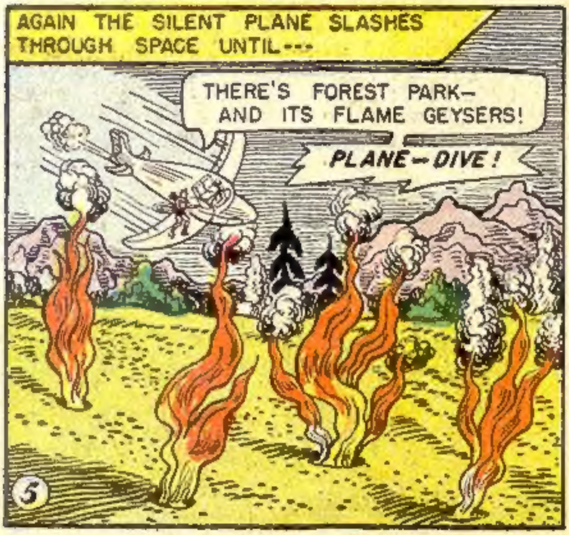

SUDDENLY, WONDER WOMAN SEES THE FAMILIAR FIGURE OF HER SWEETHEART, COL. TREVOR---
GREAT THUNDER—! DARLING—YOUR FACE—!
OH, STEVE! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE—YOU CAN HELP ME—!
MERCIFUL MINERVA! WHAT AM I DOING? STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, STEVE! DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP! I JUST REMEMBERED! I'M A MENACE! THIS MASK I'M WEARING CONTAINS A TIME-BOMB! UNTIL I FIND OUT HOW TO DISCONNECT IT—I MUSTN'T GO NEAR ANYONE!
TICK! TOCK!
HURRIEDLY, THE SORROWFUL AMAZON SUMMONS HER ROBOT PLANE---
DARLING—DON'T GO—LET ME HELP YOU!
AND ENDANGER YOUR LIFE—IF THIS SHOULD SUDDENLY EXPLODE? NO, DARLING! FAREWELL!
AS HER AMAZON PLANE FLASHES AWAY, TEARS WELL OUT OF WONDER WOMAN'S MASK---
I MAY—NEVER SEE—HIM—AGAIN—
AND THEN, THE LOVELY AMAZON'S FIGHTING SPIRIT SURGES TO THE FORE---
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP! PERHAPS COLD WILL CAUSE THE MASK TO CONTRACT UNTIL IT BECOMES BRITTLE ENOUGH TO SHATTER! I'LL HEAD FOR THE COLDEST SPOT ON THE EARTH!
PLANE-HEAD NORTH AT MAXIMUM SPEED!
IN MOMENTS, THE INCREDIBLY-FLEET PLANE IS POISED OVER THE POLAR SEA---THEN---
PLANE-DIVE!

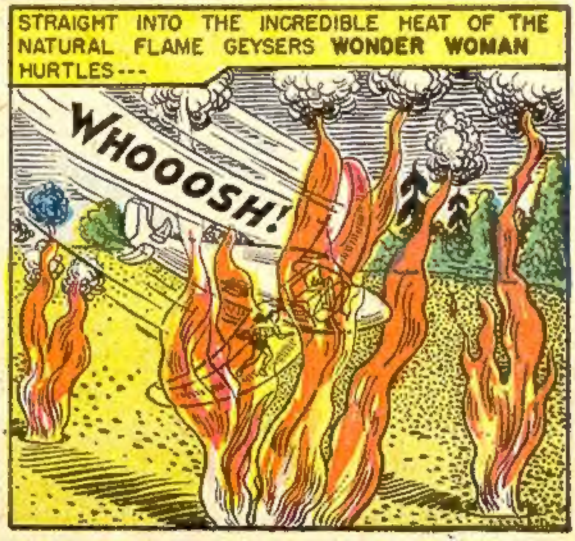

INTO THE INTENSE COLD OF THE POLAR SEA DIVES THE ROBOT PLANE ---
SPLASHH!

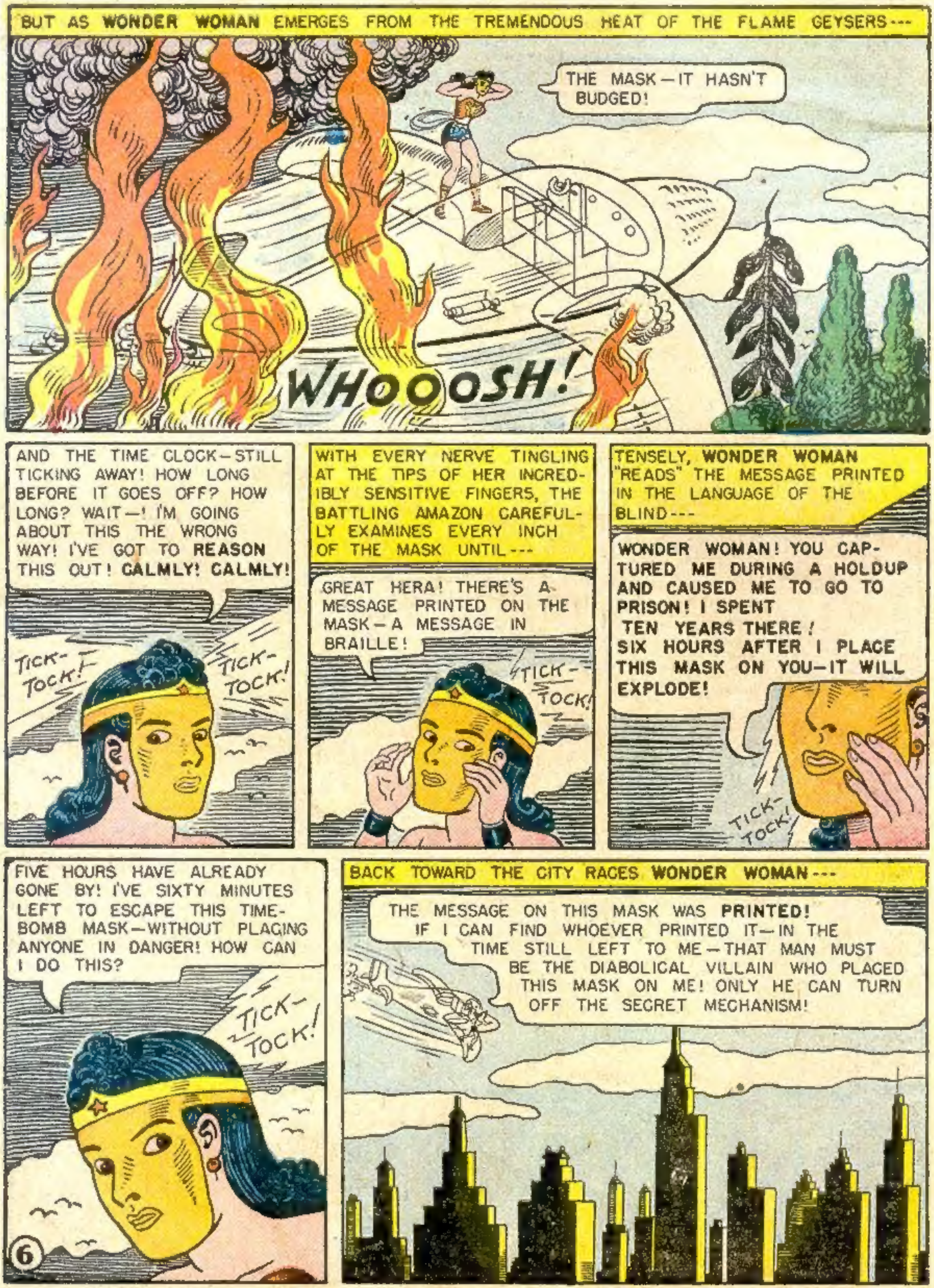

THROUGH THE INCREDIBLY ICY WATERS WONDER WOMAN IS CARRIED ---

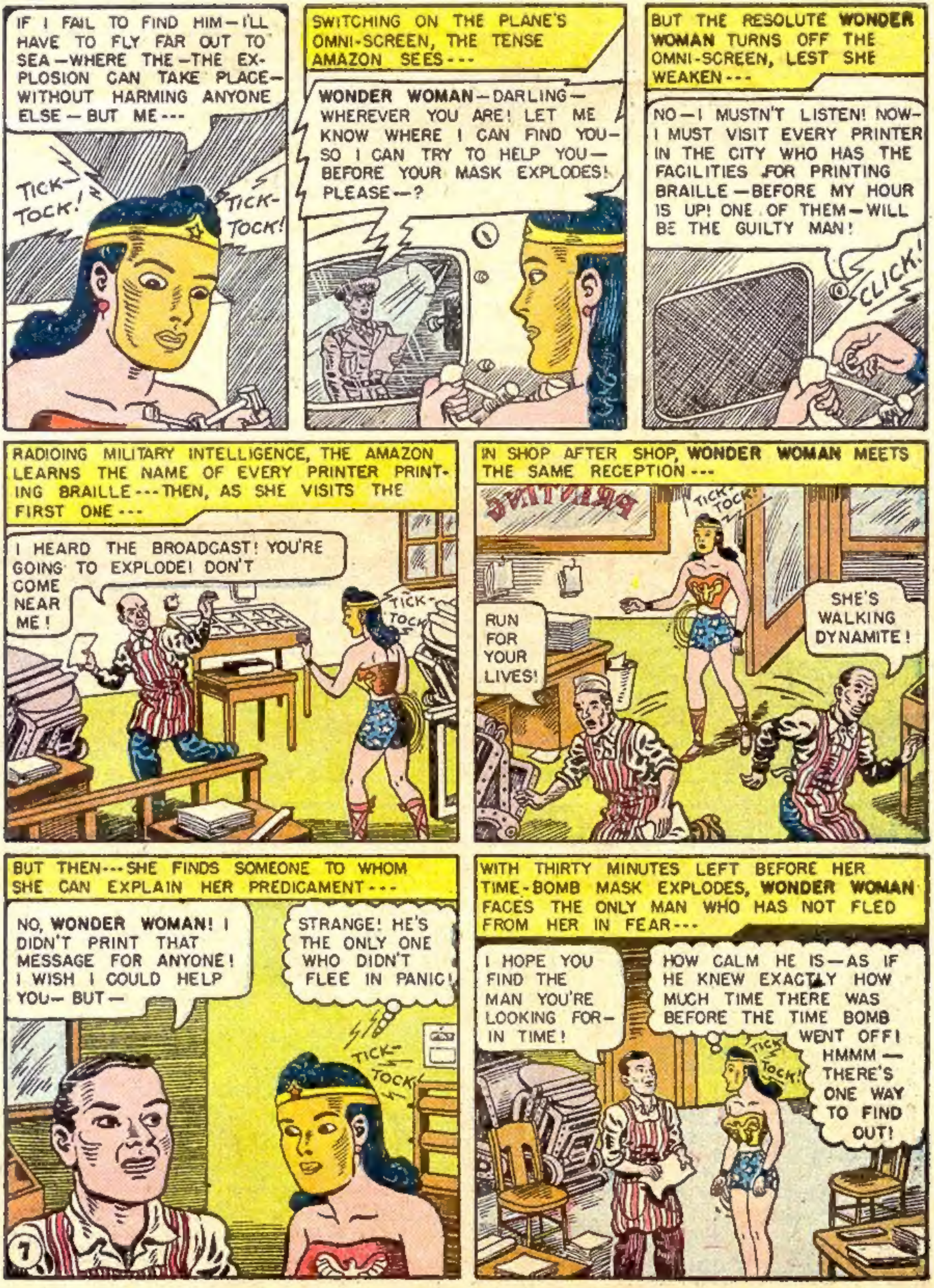

BUT WHEN SHE EMERGES ---
TICK-TOCK!
TICK-TOCK!
BY NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT! COLD HAS NO EFFECT ON THIS MASK!

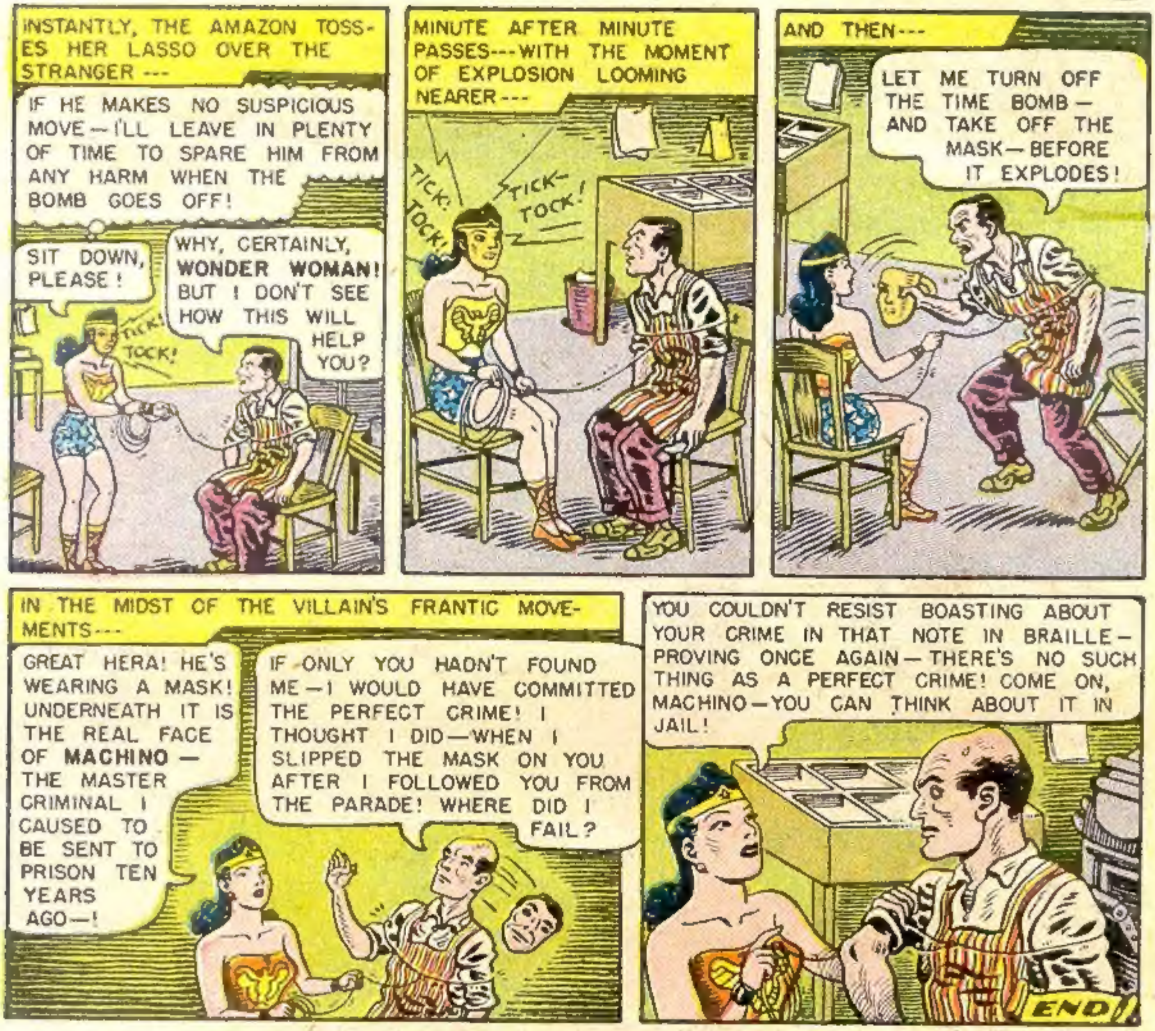

AS THE TIME-BOMB MASK TICKS AWAY HER LIFE, THE DAUNTLESS AMAZON ISSUES ANOTHER ORDER ---
I'LL TRY INTENSE HEAT THIS TIME! MAYBE THE HEAT WILL EXPAND THE MASK—SO I'LL BE ABLE TO SLIP IT OFF!
PLANE—HEAD SOUTH AT MAXIMUM SPEED!


AGAIN THE SILENT PLANE SLASHES THROUGH SPACE UNTIL ---
THERE'S FOREST PARK—AND ITS FLAME GEYSERS!
PLANE—DIVE!


STRAIGHT INTO THE INCREDIBLE HEAT OF THE NATURAL FLAME GEYSERS WONDER WOMAN HURTLES ---
WHOOOOSH!


BUT AS WONDER WOMAN EMERGES FROM THE TREMENDOUS HEAT OF THE FLAME GEYSERS---
THE MASK—IT HASN'T BUDGED!
WHOOOSH!
AND THE TIME CLOCK—STILL TICKING AWAY! HOW LONG BEFORE IT GOES OFF? HOW LONG? WAIT—! I'M GOING ABOUT THIS THE WRONG WAY! I'VE GOT TO REASON THIS OUT! CALMLY! CALMLY!
TICK-TOCK!
TICK-TOCK!
WITH EVERY NERVE TINGLING AT THE TIPS OF HER INCREDIBLY SENSITIVE FINGERS, THE BATTLING AMAZON CAREFULLY EXAMINES EVERY INCH OF THE MASK UNTIL---
GREAT HERA! THERE'S A MESSAGE PRINTED ON THE MASK—A MESSAGE IN BRAILLE!
TICK-TOCK!
TENSELY, WONDER WOMAN "READS" THE MESSAGE PRINTED IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE BLIND---
WONDER WOMAN! YOU CAPTURED ME DURING A HOLDUP AND CAUSED ME TO GO TO PRISON! I SPENT TEN YEARS THERE! SIX HOURS AFTER I PLACE THIS MASK ON YOU—IT WILL EXPLODE!
TICK-TOCK!
FIVE HOURS HAVE ALREADY GONE BY! I'VE SIXTY MINUTES LEFT TO ESCAPE THIS TIME-BOMB MASK—WITHOUT PLACING ANYONE IN DANGER! HOW CAN I DO THIS?
TICK-TOCK!
BACK TOWARD THE CITY RACES WONDER WOMAN---
THE MESSAGE ON THIS MASK WAS PRINTED! IF I CAN FIND WHOEVER PRINTED IT—IN THE TIME STILL LEFT TO ME—THAT MAN MUST BE THE DIABOLICAL VILLAIN WHO PLACED THIS MASK ON ME! ONLY HE CAN TURN OFF THE SECRET MECHANISM!


IF I FAIL TO FIND HIM—I'LL HAVE TO FLY FAR OUT TO SEA—WHERE THE—THE EXPLOSION CAN TAKE PLACE—WITHOUT HARMING ANYONE ELSE—BUT ME---
TICK-TOCK!
TICK-TOCK!
SWITCHING ON THE PLANE'S OMNI-SCREEN, THE TENSE AMAZON SEES---
WONDER WOMAN—DARLING—WHEREVER YOU ARE! LET ME KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND YOU—SO I CAN TRY TO HELP YOU—BEFORE YOUR MASK EXPLODES! PLEASE—?
BUT THE RESOLUTE WONDER WOMAN TURNS OFF THE OMNI-SCREEN, LEST SHE WEAKEN---
NO—I MUSTN'T LISTEN! NOW—I MUST VISIT EVERY PRINTER IN THE CITY WHO HAS THE FACILITIES FOR PRINTING BRAILLE—BEFORE MY HOUR IS UP! ONE OF THEM—WILL BE THE GUILTY MAN!
CLICK!
RADIOING MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, THE AMAZON LEARNS THE NAME OF EVERY PRINTER PRINTING BRAILLE---THEN, AS SHE VISITS THE FIRST ONE---
I HEARD THE BROADCAST! YOU'RE GOING TO EXPLODE! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
TICK-TOCK
IN SHOP AFTER SHOP, WONDER WOMAN MEETS THE SAME RECEPTION---
TICK-TOCK
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
SHE'S WALKING DYNAMITE!
BUT THEN---SHE FINDS SOMEONE TO WHOM SHE CAN EXPLAIN HER PREDICAMENT---
NO, WONDER WOMAN! I DIDN'T PRINT THAT MESSAGE FOR ANYONE! I WISH I COULD HELP YOU—BUT—
STRANGE! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T FLEE IN PANIC!
TICK-TOCK
WITH THIRTY MINUTES LEFT BEFORE HER TIME-BOMB MASK EXPLODES, WONDER WOMAN FACES THE ONLY MAN WHO HAS NOT FLED FROM HER IN FEAR---
I HOPE YOU FIND THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR—IN TIME!
HOW CALM HE IS—AS IF HE KNEW EXACTLY HOW MUCH TIME THERE WAS BEFORE THE TIME BOMB WENT OFF! HMMM—THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
TICK-TOCK!


INSTANTLY, THE AMAZON TOSSES HER LASSO OVER THE STRANGER---
IF HE MAKES NO SUSPICIOUS MOVE—I'LL LEAVE IN PLENTY OF TIME TO SPARE HIM FROM ANY HARM WHEN THE BOMB GOES OFF!
SIT DOWN, PLEASE!
WHY, CERTAINLY, **WONDER WOMAN**! BUT I DON'T SEE HOW THIS WILL HELP YOU?
TICK! TOCK!
MINUTE AFTER MINUTE PASSES---WITH THE MOMENT OF EXPLOSION LOOMING NEARER---
TICK! TOCK!
TICK-TOCK!
AND THEN---
LET ME TURN OFF THE TIME BOMB—AND TAKE OFF THE MASK—BEFORE IT EXPLODES!
IN THE MIDST OF THE VILLAIN'S FRANTIC MOVEMENTS---
GREAT HERA! HE'S WEARING A MASK! UNDERNEATH IT IS THE REAL FACE OF **MACHINO**—THE MASTER CRIMINAL I CAUSED TO BE SENT TO PRISON TEN YEARS AGO—!
IF ONLY YOU HADN'T FOUND ME—I WOULD HAVE COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME! I THOUGHT I DID—WHEN I SLIPPED THE MASK ON YOU AFTER I FOLLOWED YOU FROM THE PARADE! WHERE DID I FAIL?
YOU COULDN'T RESIST BOASTING ABOUT YOUR CRIME IN THAT NOTE IN BRAILLE—PROVING ONCE AGAIN—THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT CRIME! COME ON, MACHINO—YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IT IN JAIL!
END

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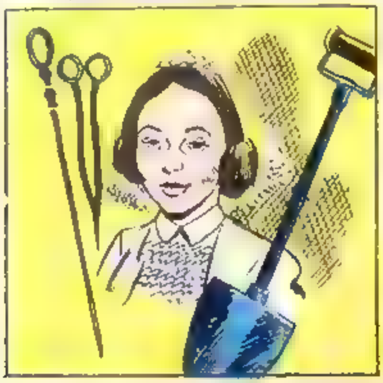
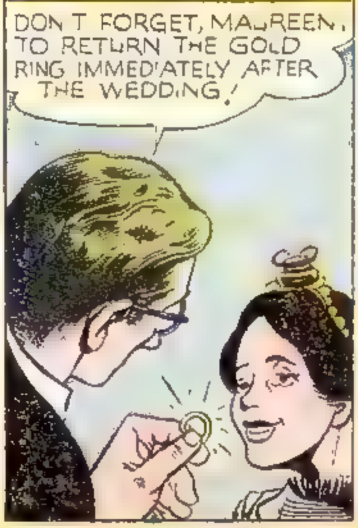
WEDDING NOTIONS

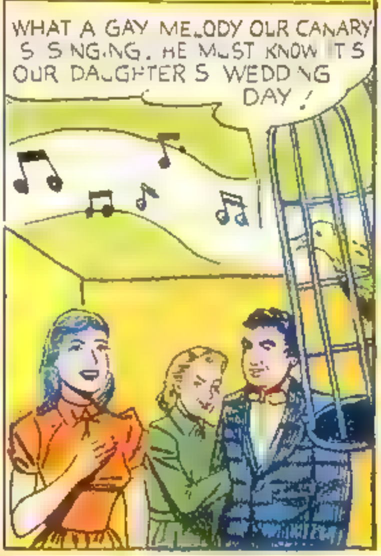
AFTER A WEDDING IN THE PROVINCES OF NORTH ENGLAND, A BRIDE WAS HANDED A POKER, SHOVEL AND TONGS WHEN SHE ENTERED HER NEW HOME, AS TOKENS OF HER HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES...



AT ONE TIME A WEDDING IN IRELAND WAS NOT CONSIDERED "LEGAL" UNLESS SOLEMNIZED WITH A GOLD RING. POOR FAMILIES WHO COULD NOT AFFORD TO PURCHASE A GOLD RING BORROWED ONE FROM THE TOWN REGISTRAR OR PRIEST...


DON'T FORGET, MAUREEN, TO RETURN THE GOLD RING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WEDDING!

IN THE WESTERN PART OF SCOTLAND IT WAS ONCE BELIEVED THAT IF A BIRD IN A CAGE DIED ON THE MORNING ONE OF THE FAMILY WAS TO BE WED, THE MARRIAGE WOULD TURN OUT TO BE AN UNHAPPY ONE AND THAT THE COUPLE WOULD SOON SEPARATE..


WHAT A GAY MELODY OUR CANARY IS SINGING. HE MUST KNOW IT'S OUR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING DAY!

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They're Number 1 on my Christmas List!

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TRADE-MARK
Roller Skates

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They skate as good as they look—and last longer, too!

Signed ______________________

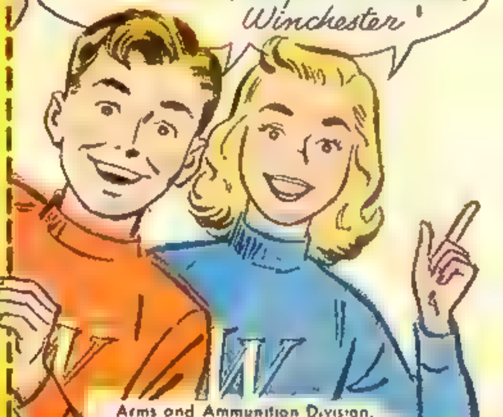
PARENTS: Winchester Roller Skates are quality constructed throughout. Special "backbone" construction gives full support to skater's instep. All ball bearings made to strict specifications. Wheel treads are extra heavy, extra wide—made to make skating easier, and prevent sideways slides. Inside wheel frames are spot welded—can't suddenly come apart when tread is worn. Live rubber shock absorbers iron out bumps.

Ask to see the No. 3531 Deluxe Double Row Ball Bearing Model, the No. 3536 Single Row Ball Bearing Model, or the No. 3537, Universal Junior Model.

BOYS AND GIRLS, HERE'S YOUR EASY WAY TO GET A PAIR OF FAST ROLLIN' WINCHESTER SKATES THIS CHRISTMAS!

JUST CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, AND SIGN YOUR NAME TO THIS SPECIAL "PARENTS REMINDER". PIN IT TO YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST, OR PUT IT WHEREVER YOU ARE SURE MOTHER AND DAD WILL FIND IT. WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES, MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE A PAIR OF GENUINE FAST ROLLING WINCHESTER SKATES JUST LIKE OURS.

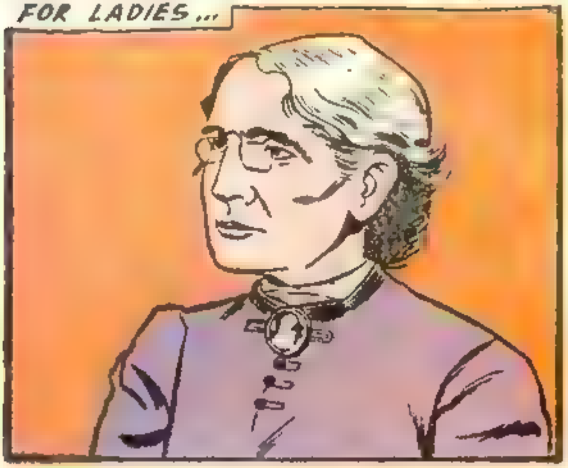
GOOD LUCK AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL! *Wings and Winnie Winchester*



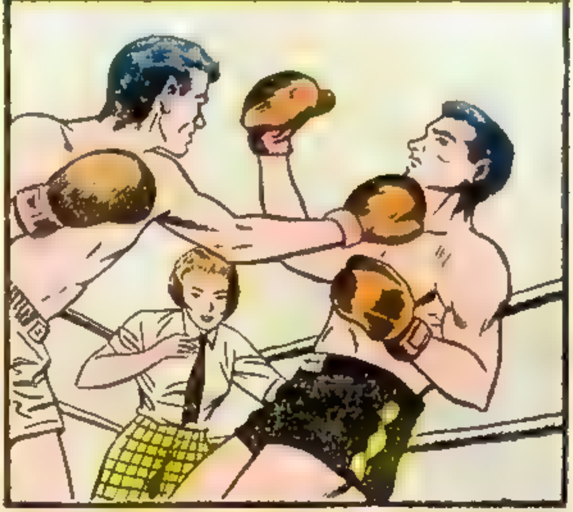
Arms and Ammunition Division,
Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation,
New Haven 4, Conn.

WOMEN of DISTINCTION!

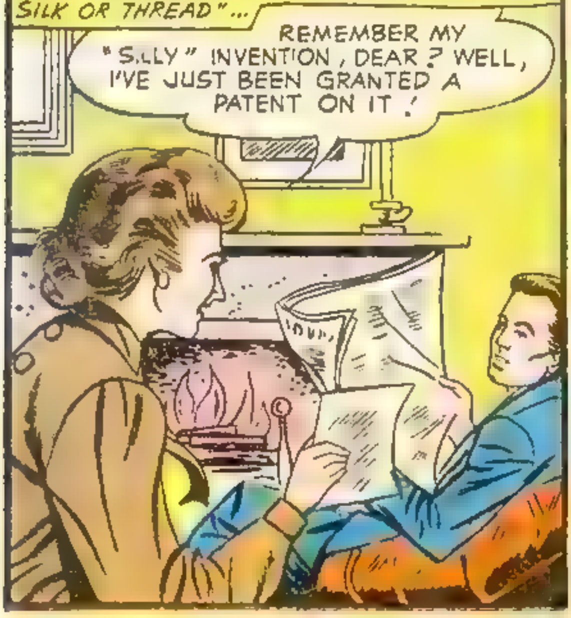
THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST WOMAN COLLEGE PRESIDENT WAS CONFERRED ON ***FRANCES ELIZABETH WILLARD,*** WHEN SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THIS HIGH POSITION AT ***NORTHWESTERN FEMALE COLLEGE*** IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS. UPON ASSUMPTION OF HER OFFICE IN FEBRUARY, 1871, THE NAME OF THE COLLEGE WAS CHANGED TO ***EVANSTON COLLEGE FOR LADIES...***



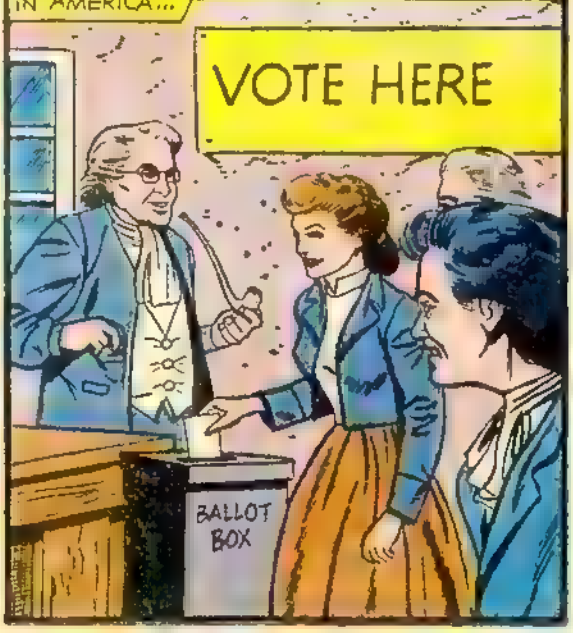
ON APRIL 30, 1940, THE CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION GRANTED **MRS. BELLE MARTELL** OF VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA, A LICENSE TO REFEREE BOXING AND WRESTLING MATCHES, THUS MAKING HER THE FIRST FEMALE REFEREE. FOR HER INITIAL ASSIGNMENT, SHE REFEREED A COMPLETE BOXING CARD OF EIGHT BOUTS AT SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA...



THE DAY MAY 5, 1890 IS A MEMORABLE ONE IN THE WOMAN'S WORLD, FOR IT MARKS THE DATE THE FIRST WOMAN RECEIVED A PATENT FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE. MRS. ***MARY KIES,*** OF SOUTH KILLINGLY, CONNECTICUT WAS GRANTED A PATENT FOR *"A NEW AND USEFUL IMPROVEMENT IN WEAVING STRAW WITH SILK OR THREAD"...*


REMEMBER MY "SILLY" INVENTION, DEAR? WELL, I'VE JUST BEEN GRANTED A PATENT ON IT!

IN THE YEAR 1756, **MRS. *JOSIAH TAFT*** VOTED HER APPROVAL OF LEVYING A TOWN TAX IN UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, THEREBY BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN TO CAST A VOTE IN AMERICA...

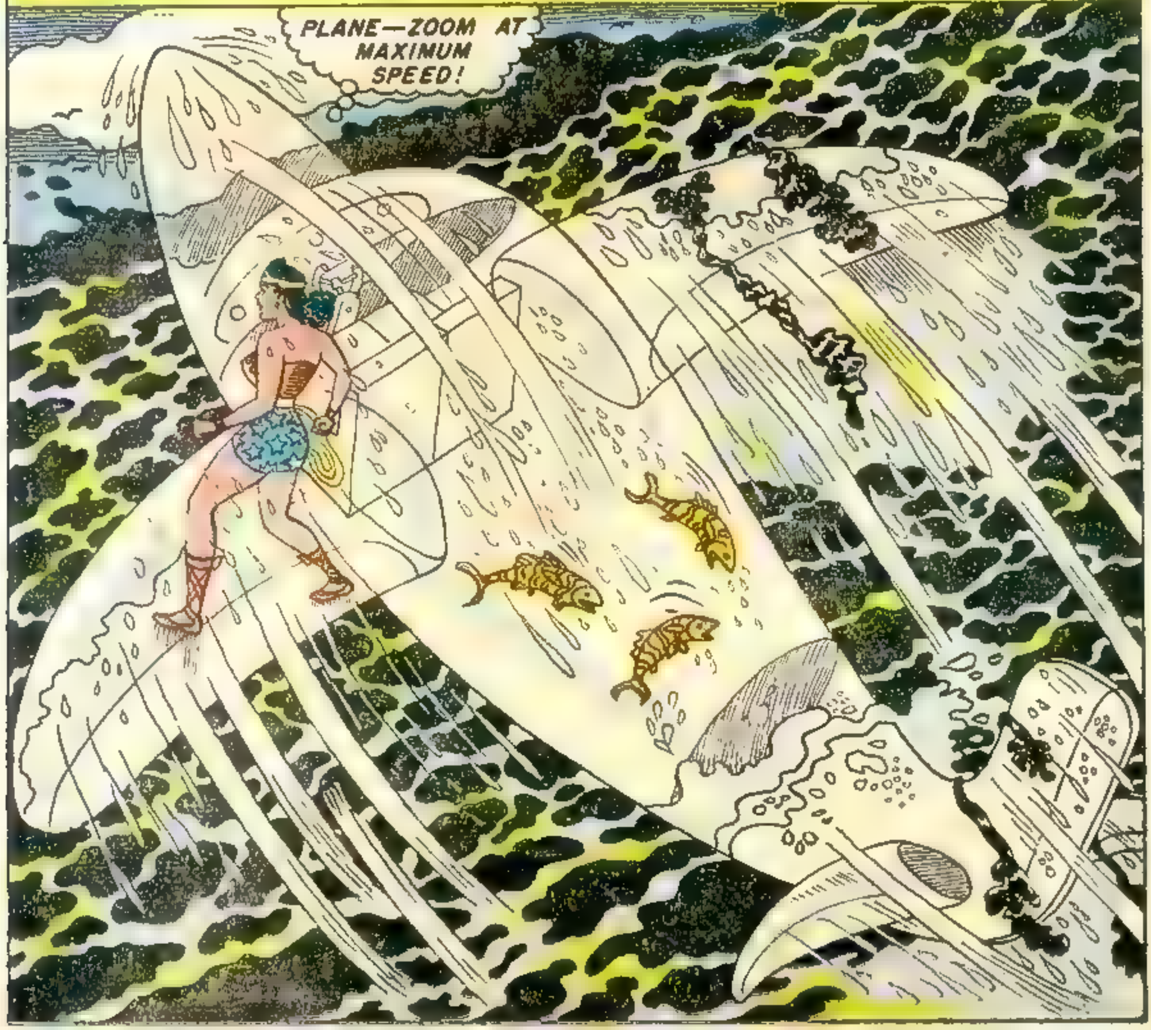


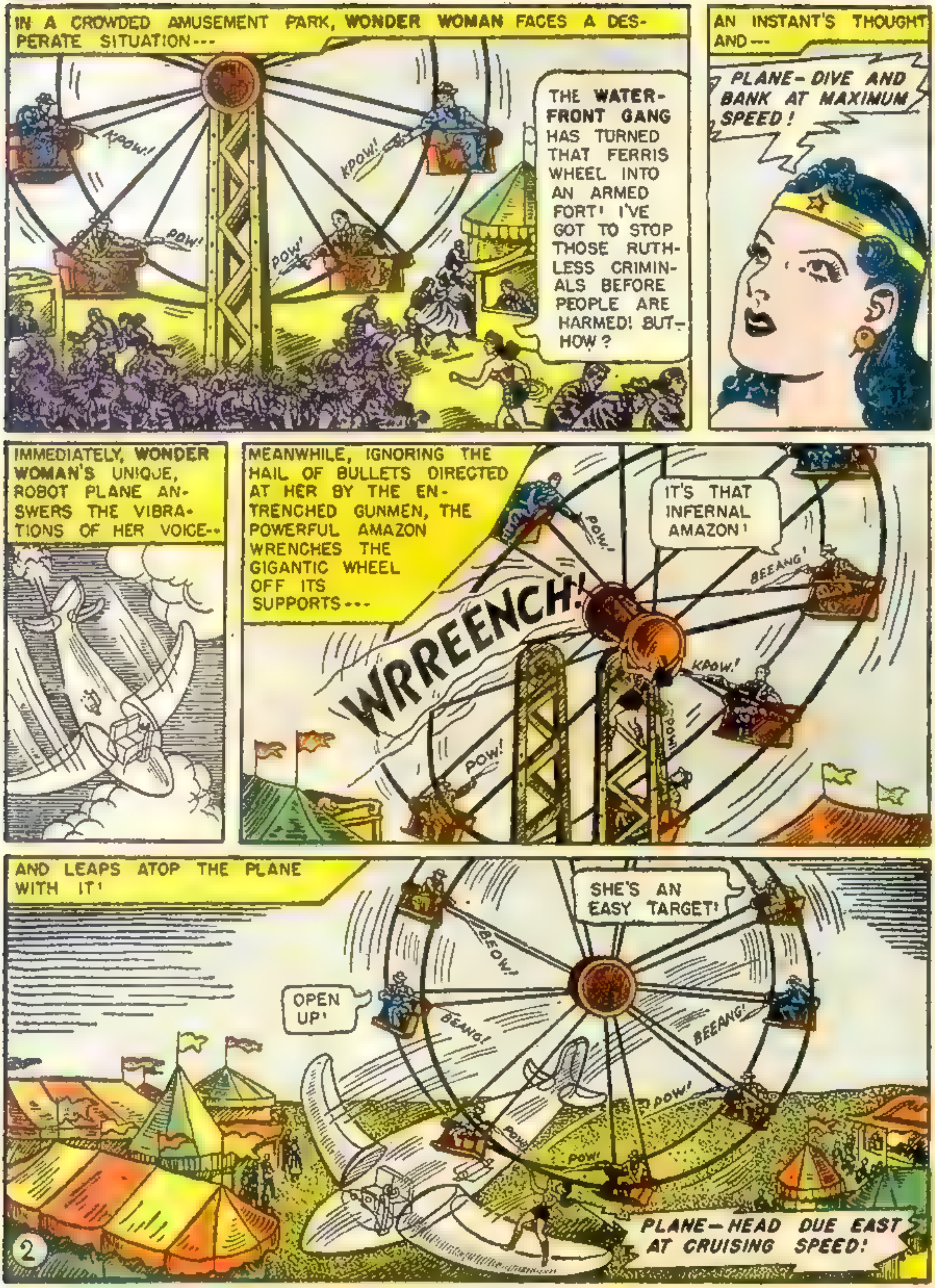
Wonder Woman

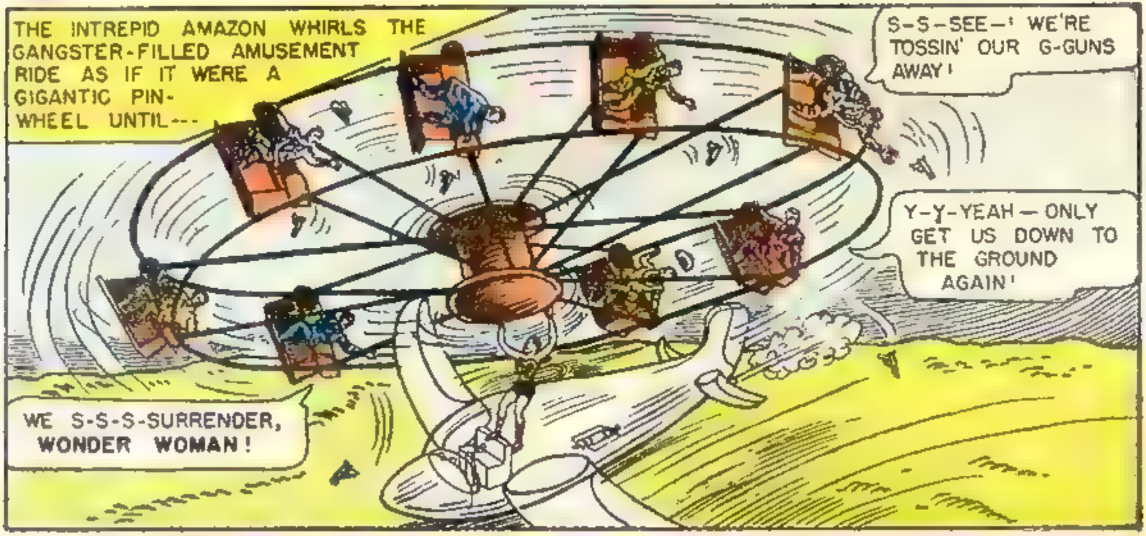
By CHARLES MOULTON

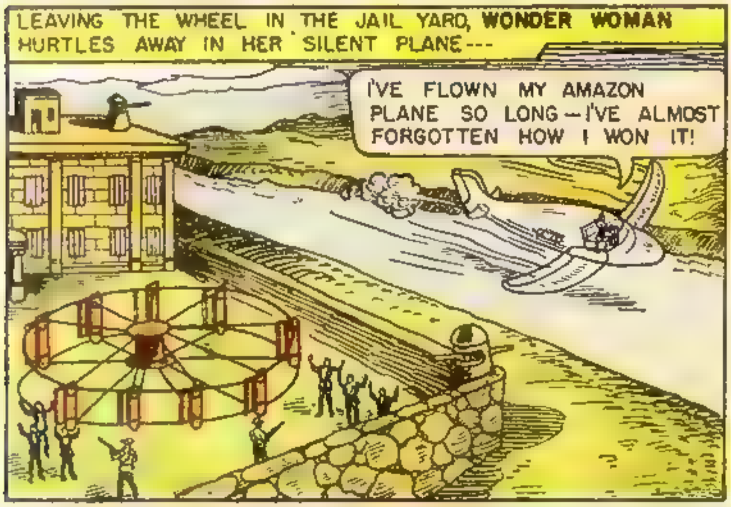
WHERE IN THIS ENTIRE WORLD CAN YOU FIND A PLANE WHICH IS UTTERLY SILENT—TRANSPARENT—AND WHICH ANSWERS **ONLY** TO THE SOUND OF **ONE** PERSON'S VOICE? **WONDER WOMAN**—BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, WISE AS ATHENA, SWIFTER THAN MERCURY, AND STRONGER THAN HERCULES—WILL ANSWER THE MANY LETTERS YOU HAVE SENT CONCERNING HER UNIQUE VEHICLE—IN THE STARTLING ADVENTURE OF------

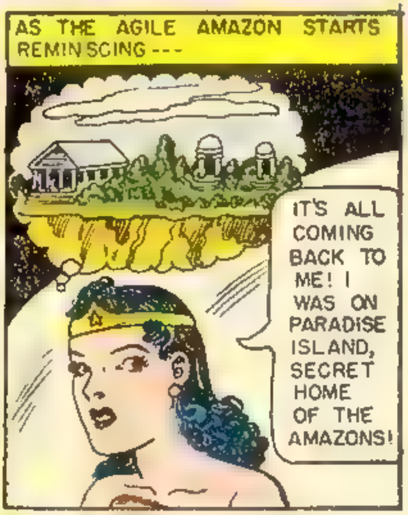
"The ORIGIN of the AMAZON PLANE!"

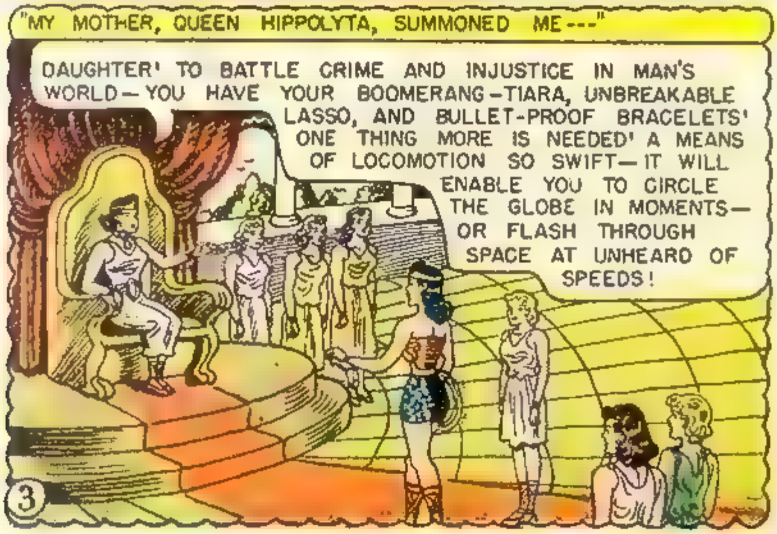

PLANE—ZOOM AT MAXIMUM SPEED!

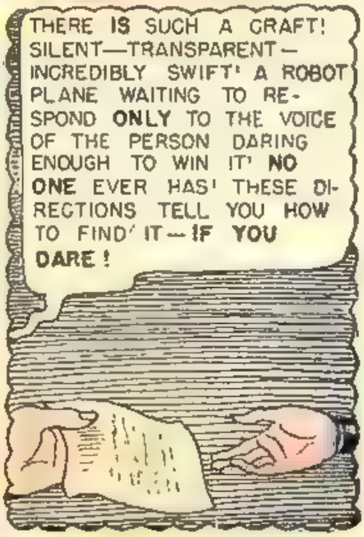

IN A CROWDED AMUSEMENT PARK, WONDER WOMAN FACES A DESPERATE SITUATION---
KPOW!
KPOW!
POW!
POW!
THE WATERFRONT GANG HAS TURNED THAT FERRIS WHEEL INTO AN ARMED FORT! I'VE GOT TO STOP THOSE RUTHLESS CRIMINALS BEFORE PEOPLE ARE HARMED! BUT-HOW?
AN INSTANT'S THOUGHT AND---
PLANE-DIVE AND BANK AT MAXIMUM SPEED!
IMMEDIATELY, WONDER WOMAN'S UNIQUE, ROBOT PLANE ANSWERS THE VIBRATIONS OF HER VOICE--
MEANWHILE, IGNORING THE HAIL OF BULLETS DIRECTED AT HER BY THE ENTRENCHED GUNMEN, THE POWERFUL AMAZON WRENCHES THE GIGANTIC WHEEL OFF ITS SUPPORTS---
POW!
IT'S THAT INFERNAL AMAZON!
BEEANG!
WRREENCH!
KPOW!
POW!
POW!
AND LEAPS ATOP THE PLANE WITH IT!
SHE'S AN EASY TARGET!
BEOW!
OPEN UP!
BEANG!
BEEANG!
POW!
POW!
POW!
PLANE-HEAD DUE EAST AT CRUISING SPEED!

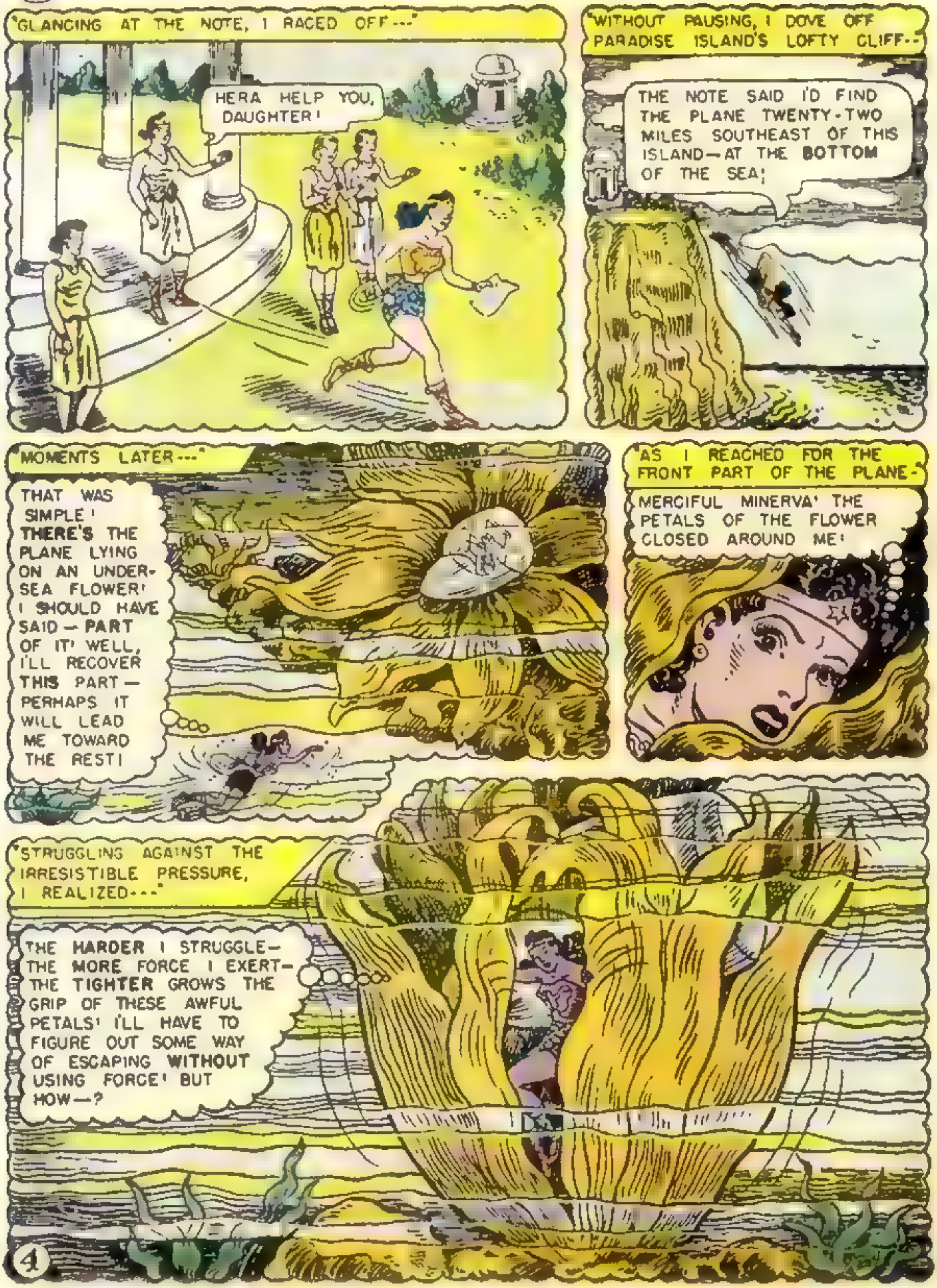

THE INTREPID AMAZON WHIRLS THE GANGSTER-FILLED AMUSEMENT RIDE AS IF IT WERE A GIGANTIC PINWHEEL UNTIL---
S-S-SEE—! WE'RE TOSSIN' OUR G-GUNS AWAY!
Y-Y-YEAH — ONLY GET US DOWN TO THE GROUND AGAIN!
WE S-S-S-SURRENDER, **WONDER WOMAN!**

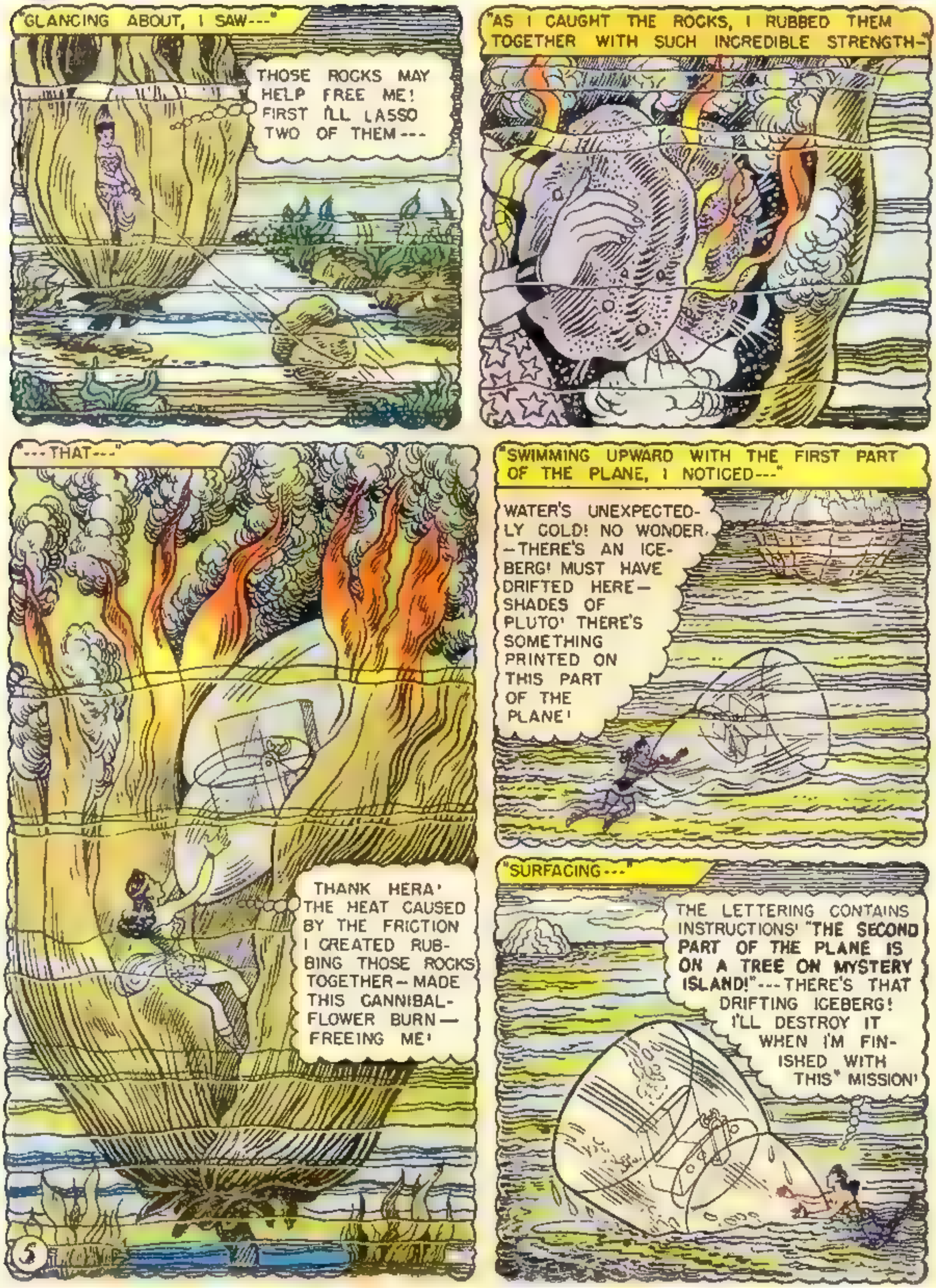

LEAVING THE WHEEL IN THE JAIL YARD, **WONDER WOMAN** HURTLES AWAY IN HER SILENT PLANE---
I'VE FLOWN MY AMAZON PLANE SO LONG — I'VE ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW I WON IT!

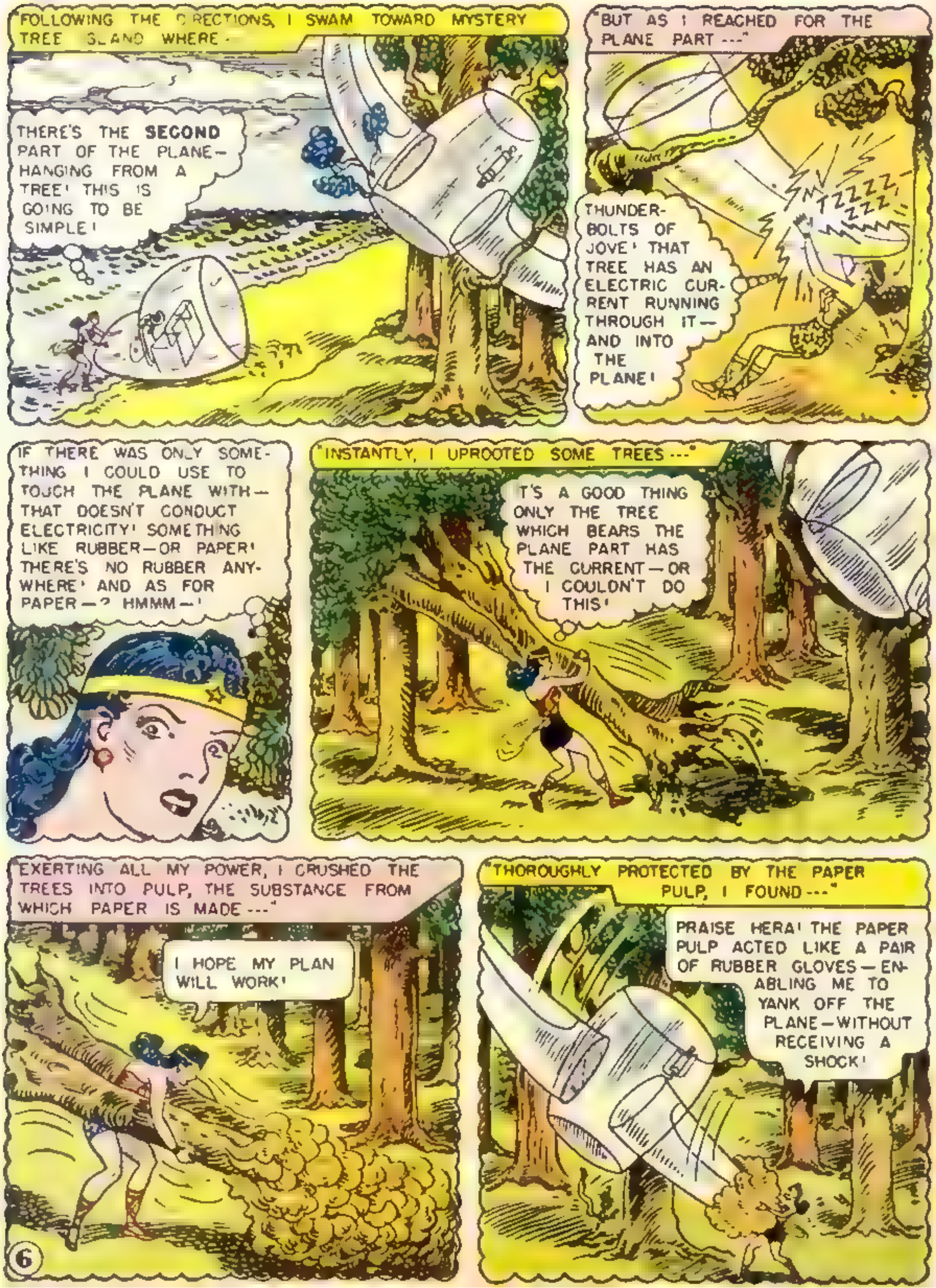

AS THE AGILE AMAZON STARTS REMINISCING---
IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME! I WAS ON PARADISE ISLAND, SECRET HOME OF THE AMAZONS!

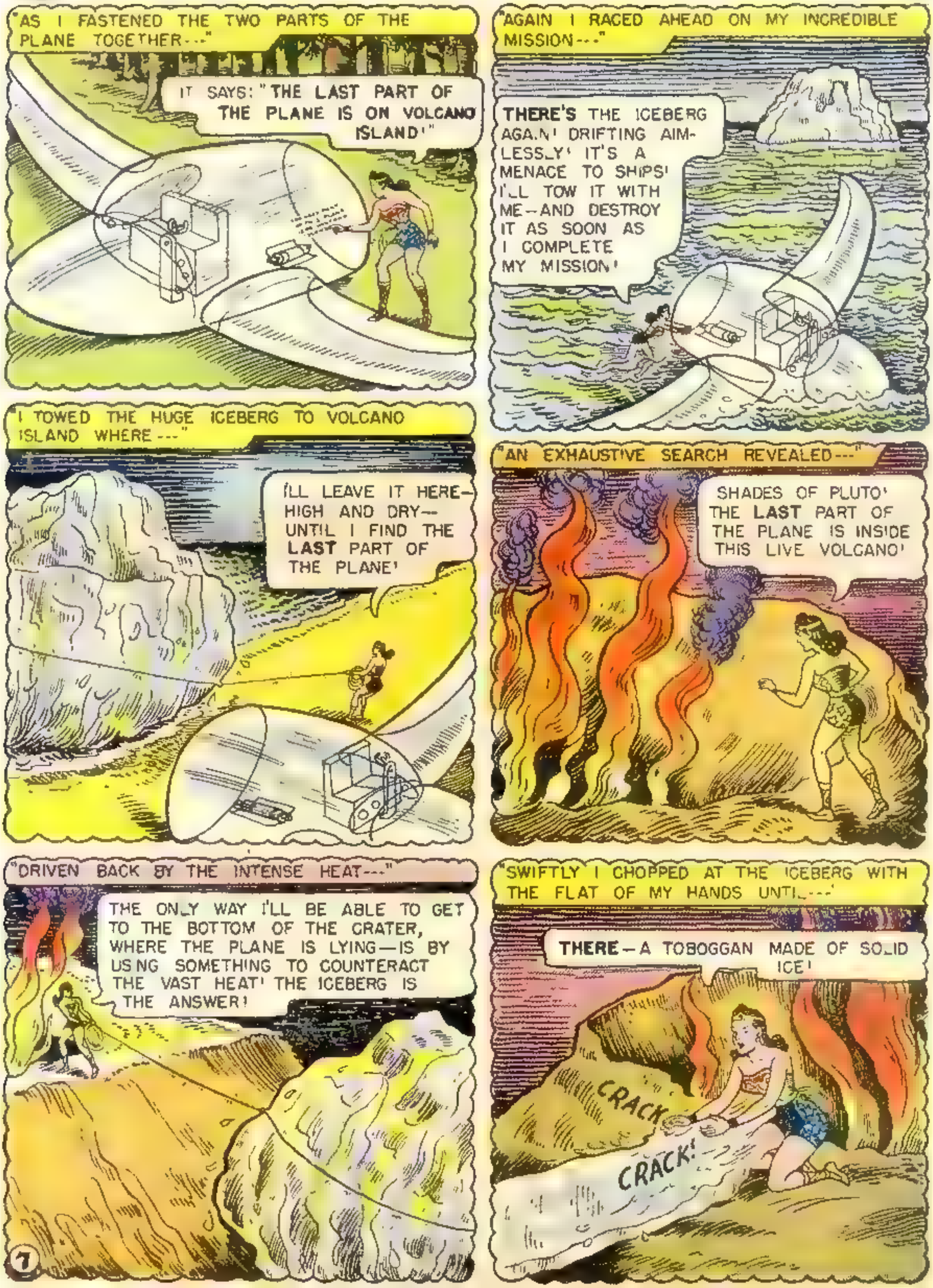

"MY MOTHER, QUEEN HIPPOLYTA, SUMMONED ME---"
DAUGHTER! TO BATTLE CRIME AND INJUSTICE IN MAN'S WORLD — YOU HAVE YOUR BOOMERANG-TIARA, UNBREAKABLE LASSO, AND BULLET-PROOF BRACELETS! ONE THING MORE IS NEEDED! A MEANS OF LOCOMOTION SO SWIFT — IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO CIRCLE THE GLOBE IN MOMENTS — OR FLASH THROUGH SPACE AT UNHEARD OF SPEEDS!

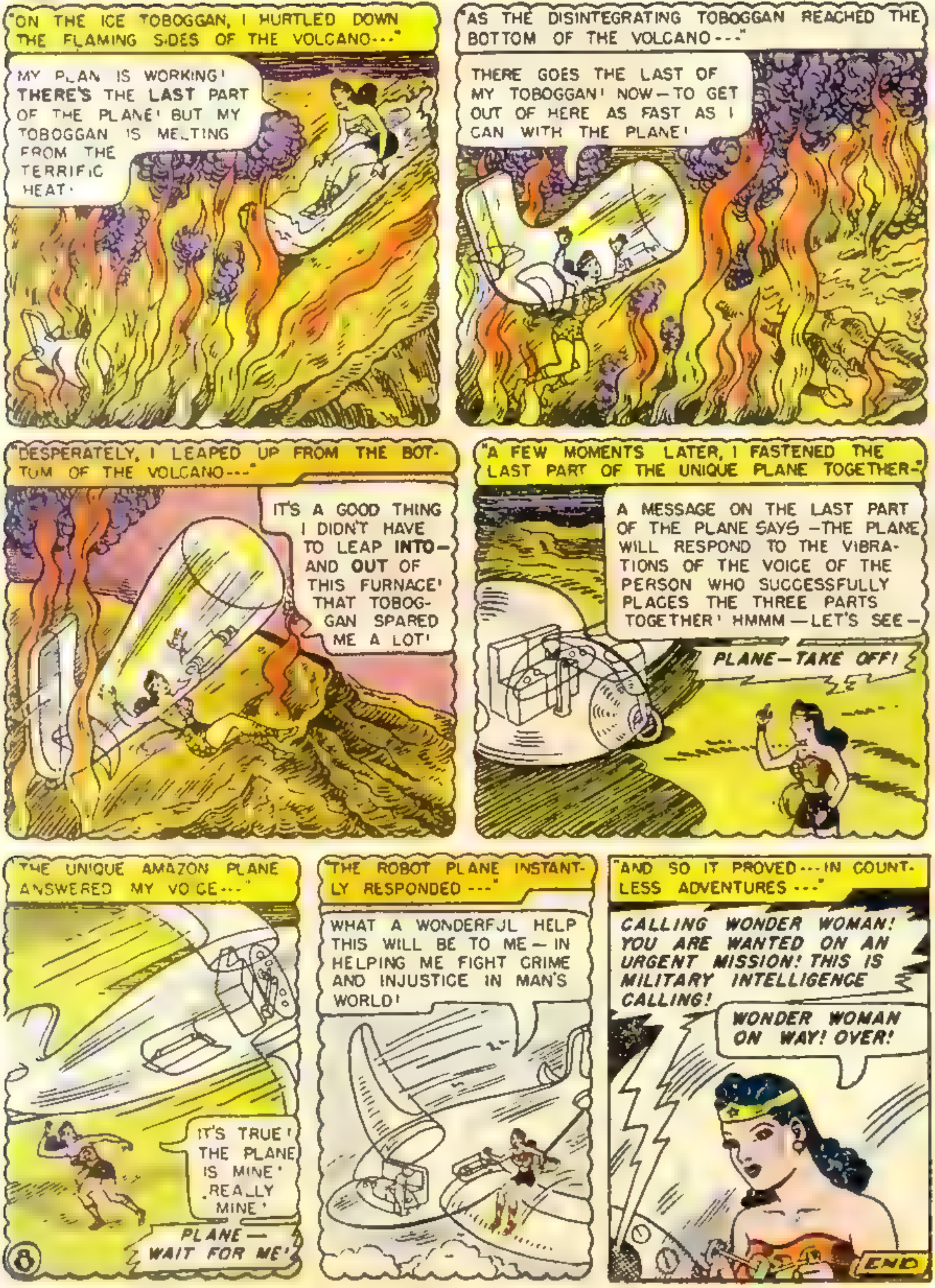

THERE **IS** SUCH A CRAFT! SILENT—TRANSPARENT— INCREDIBLY SWIFT! A ROBOT PLANE WAITING TO RESPOND **ONLY** TO THE VOICE OF THE PERSON DARING ENOUGH TO WIN IT! **NO ONE** EVER HAS! THESE DIRECTIONS TELL YOU HOW TO FIND IT — **IF YOU DARE!**


"GLANCING AT THE NOTE, I RACED OFF---"
HERA HELP YOU, DAUGHTER!
"WITHOUT PAUSING, I DOVE OFF PARADISE ISLAND'S LOFTY CLIFF--"
THE NOTE SAID I'D FIND THE PLANE TWENTY-TWO MILES SOUTHEAST OF THIS ISLAND—AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!
"MOMENTS LATER---"
THAT WAS SIMPLE! THERE'S THE PLANE LYING ON AN UNDERSEA FLOWER! I SHOULD HAVE SAID—PART OF IT! WELL, I'LL RECOVER THIS PART—PERHAPS IT WILL LEAD ME TOWARD THE REST!
"AS I REACHED FOR THE FRONT PART OF THE PLANE-"
MERCIFUL MINERVA! THE PETALS OF THE FLOWER CLOSED AROUND ME!
"STRUGGLING AGAINST THE IRRESISTIBLE PRESSURE, I REALIZED---"
THE HARDER I STRUGGLE—THE MORE FORCE I EXERT—THE TIGHTER GROWS THE GRIP OF THESE AWFUL PETALS! I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT SOME WAY OF ESCAPING WITHOUT USING FORCE! BUT HOW—?
4


"GLANCING ABOUT, I SAW---"
THOSE ROCKS MAY HELP FREE ME! FIRST I'LL LASSO TWO OF THEM---
"AS I CAUGHT THE ROCKS, I RUBBED THEM TOGETHER WITH SUCH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH-"
"---THAT---"
THANK HERA! THE HEAT CAUSED BY THE FRICTION I CREATED RUBBING THOSE ROCKS TOGETHER-MADE THIS CANNIBAL-FLOWER BURN-FREEING ME!
"SWIMMING UPWARD WITH THE FIRST PART OF THE PLANE, I NOTICED---"
WATER'S UNEXPECTEDLY COLD! NO WONDER-THERE'S AN ICEBERG! MUST HAVE DRIFTED HERE-SHADES OF PLUTO! THERE'S SOMETHING PRINTED ON THIS PART OF THE PLANE!
"SURFACING---"
THE LETTERING CONTAINS INSTRUCTIONS! "THE SECOND PART OF THE PLANE IS ON A TREE ON MYSTERY ISLAND!"---THERE'S THAT DRIFTING ICEBERG! I'LL DESTROY IT WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH THIS MISSION!


"FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS, I SWAM TOWARD MYSTERY TREE ISLAND WHERE -
THERE'S THE **SECOND** PART OF THE PLANE— HANGING FROM A TREE! THIS IS GOING TO BE SIMPLE!
"BUT AS I REACHED FOR THE PLANE PART ---"
THUNDER-BOLTS OF JOVE! THAT TREE HAS AN ELECTRIC CURRENT RUNNING THROUGH IT— AND INTO THE PLANE!
ZZZZZ ZZZZ
IF THERE WAS ONLY SOMETHING I COULD USE TO TOUCH THE PLANE WITH— THAT DOESN'T CONDUCT ELECTRICITY! SOMETHING LIKE RUBBER—OR PAPER! THERE'S NO RUBBER ANYWHERE! AND AS FOR PAPER—? HMMM—!
"INSTANTLY, I UPROOTED SOME TREES ---"
IT'S A GOOD THING ONLY THE TREE WHICH BEARS THE PLANE PART HAS THE CURRENT—OR I COULDN'T DO THIS!
"EXERTING ALL MY POWER, I CRUSHED THE TREES INTO PULP, THE SUBSTANCE FROM WHICH PAPER IS MADE ---"
I HOPE MY PLAN WILL WORK!
"THOROUGHLY PROTECTED BY THE PAPER PULP, I FOUND ---"
PRAISE HERA! THE PAPER PULP ACTED LIKE A PAIR OF RUBBER GLOVES—ENABLING ME TO YANK OFF THE PLANE—WITHOUT RECEIVING A SHOCK!


"AS I FASTENED THE TWO PARTS OF THE PLANE TOGETHER---"
IT SAYS: "THE LAST PART OF THE PLANE IS ON VOLCANO ISLAND!"
"AGAIN I RACED AHEAD ON MY INCREDIBLE MISSION---"
THERE'S THE ICEBERG AGAIN! DRIFTING AIMLESSLY! IT'S A MENACE TO SHIPS! I'LL TOW IT WITH ME--AND DESTROY IT AS SOON AS I COMPLETE MY MISSION!
"I TOWED THE HUGE ICEBERG TO VOLCANO ISLAND WHERE---"
I'LL LEAVE IT HERE--HIGH AND DRY--UNTIL I FIND THE LAST PART OF THE PLANE!
"AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH REVEALED---"
SHADES OF PLUTO! THE LAST PART OF THE PLANE IS INSIDE THIS LIVE VOLCANO!
"DRIVEN BACK BY THE INTENSE HEAT---"
THE ONLY WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CRATER, WHERE THE PLANE IS LYING--IS BY USING SOMETHING TO COUNTERACT THE VAST HEAT! THE ICEBERG IS THE ANSWER!
"SWIFTLY I CHOPPED AT THE ICEBERG WITH THE FLAT OF MY HANDS UNTIL---"
THERE--A TOBOGGAN MADE OF SOLID ICE!
CRACK
CRACK!


"ON THE ICE TOBOGGAN, I HURTLED DOWN THE FLAMING SIDES OF THE VOLCANO---"
MY PLAN IS WORKING! THERE'S THE LAST PART OF THE PLANE! BUT MY TOBOGGAN IS MELTING FROM THE TERRIFIC HEAT!
"AS THE DISINTEGRATING TOBOGGAN REACHED THE BOTTOM OF THE VOLCANO---"
THERE GOES THE LAST OF MY TOBOGGAN! NOW—TO GET OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS I CAN WITH THE PLANE!
"DESPERATELY, I LEAPED UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE VOLCANO---"
IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAP INTO—AND OUT OF THIS FURNACE! THAT TOBOGGAN SPARED ME A LOT!
"A FEW MOMENTS LATER, I FASTENED THE LAST PART OF THE UNIQUE PLANE TOGETHER-"
A MESSAGE ON THE LAST PART OF THE PLANE SAYS —THE PLANE WILL RESPOND TO THE VIBRATIONS OF THE VOICE OF THE PERSON WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLACES THE THREE PARTS TOGETHER! HMMM —LET'S SEE—
PLANE—TAKE OFF!
"THE UNIQUE AMAZON PLANE ANSWERED MY VOICE---"
IT'S TRUE! THE PLANE IS MINE! REALLY MINE!
PLANE— WAIT FOR ME!
"THE ROBOT PLANE INSTANTLY RESPONDED ---"
WHAT A WONDERFUL HELP THIS WILL BE TO ME — IN HELPING ME FIGHT CRIME AND INJUSTICE IN MAN'S WORLD!
"AND SO IT PROVED---IN COUNTLESS ADVENTURES ---"
CALLING WONDER WOMAN! YOU ARE WANTED ON AN URGENT MISSION! THIS IS MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CALLING!
WONDER WOMAN ON WAY! OVER!
END

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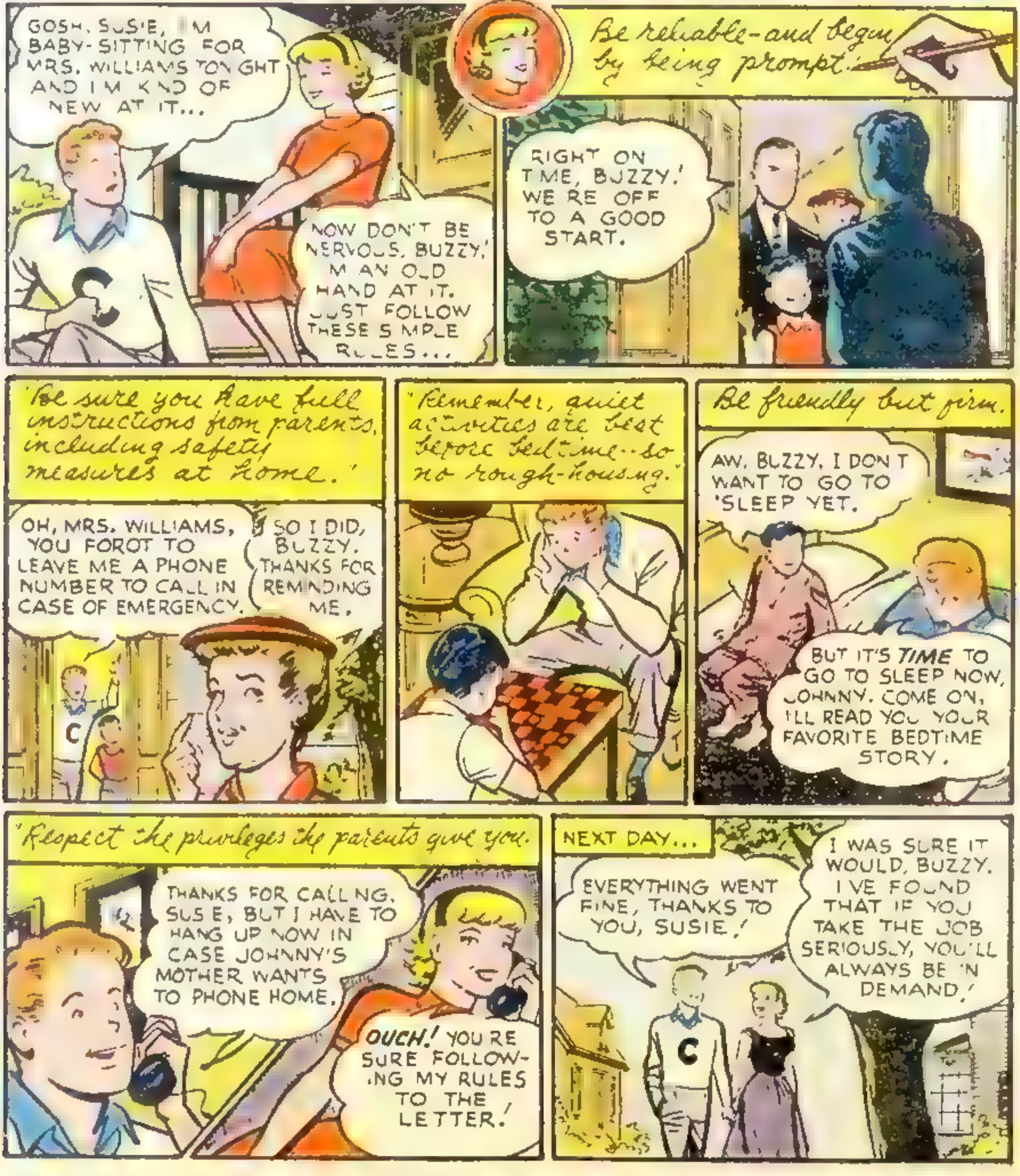
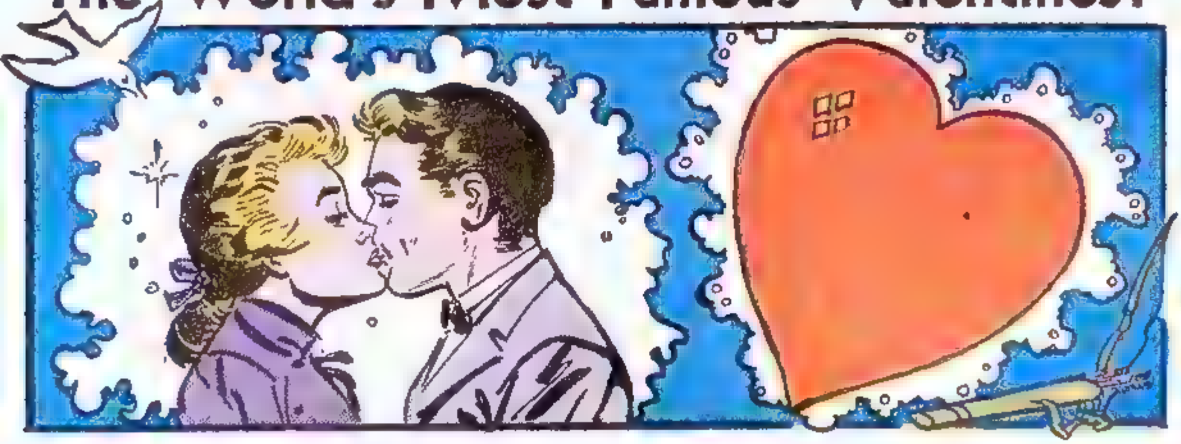
BUZZY asks: "DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BE A GOOD BABY-SITTER?"


GOSH, SUSIE, I'M BABY-SITTING FOR MRS. WILLIAMS TONIGHT AND I'M KIND OF NEW AT IT...
NOW DON'T BE NERVOUS, BUZZY! I'M AN OLD HAND AT IT. JUST FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES...
"Be reliable—and begin by being prompt!"
RIGHT ON TIME, BUZZY! WE'RE OFF TO A GOOD START.
"Be sure you have full instructions from parents, including safety measures at home."
OH, MRS. WILLIAMS, YOU FOROT TO LEAVE ME A PHONE NUMBER TO CALL IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
SO I DID, BUZZY. THANKS FOR REMINDING ME.
"Remember, quiet activities are best before bedtime...so no rough-housing."
Be friendly but firm.
AW, BUZZY, I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SLEEP YET.
BUT IT'S TIME TO GO TO SLEEP NOW, JOHNNY. COME ON, I'LL READ YOU YOUR FAVORITE BEDTIME STORY.
"Respect the privileges the parents give you.
THANKS FOR CALLING, SUSIE, BUT I HAVE TO HANG UP NOW IN CASE JOHNNY'S MOTHER WANTS TO PHONE HOME.
OUCH! YOU'RE SURE FOLLOWING MY RULES TO THE LETTER!
NEXT DAY...
EVERYTHING WENT FINE, THANKS TO YOU, SUSIE!
I WAS SURE IT WOULD, BUZZY. I'VE FOUND THAT IF YOU TAKE THE JOB SERIOUSLY, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE IN DEMAND!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U S

The World's Most Famous Valentines!



THE earliest known valentine, dated 1415, was laboriously written and prepared by Charles, Duke of Orleans, while he was held prisoner in the gloomy Tower of London. Love and longing inspired the Duke's valentine, which is still preserved in the British Museum.

But it was an entirely different motive that inspired the poet John Lydgate in the same century to send Catherine, wife of Henry V, a sentimental valentine. The valentine bore fruit, for King Henry was favorably disposed toward the poet from that time on.

Valentines became an expensive proposition during the sixteenth century. The Duke of York, for example, selecting Lady Arabella Stuart as his valentine, sent her a valentine enclosing a ring worth $4,000.

When did the custom of sending valentines first begin? Oddly enough, although the very name St. Valentine indicates that the custom had its origin with the patron saint of lovers, the custom actually goes back into antiquity. How St. Valentine's name became associated with the custom is an interesting story.

Valentinus used to assist Christian martyrs during their persecution under Emperor Claudius II in Rome. It was this that led to his execution on February 14.

Now, there existed among the ancient Romans a custom of celebrating a festival on the fourteenth of February in honor of their goddess, Juno Regina. At this feast it was the practise for boys to draw by lot the name of girls who were to be their partners in the celebration.

The early pastors wished to put a stop to "this lewd custom of the heathen" but realized that it would be impossible to stop it altogether. They, therefore, changed or adapted the custom by using the name of a patron saint (*St. Valentine*) who had, by chance, been martyred on the very same day the Roman custom was celebrated—February 14.

That this story is true is evidenced by the fact that in England, it was the custom to draw lots for valentine partners—and this custom was even observed in America during the eighteenth century.

The first English valentines began as sheets of paper with verses written upon them. Commercial valentines began in England when certain printers started to issue sentimental or humorous illustrations combined with suitable verses.

In a seafaring nation like England, it is not surprising that naval-type valentines should strike popular fancy. The plight of a sailor longing for his loved one, and his return from a long voyage, was a situation that brought tears from boy and girl alike. Typical of this type of valentine was one entitled "A Sailor's Return." The illustration depicted the sailor on high ground. Far behind him, an unrealistic ship at sea. Coming towards him, her arms outstretched, his sweetheart. The illustration was enclosed in a flowered medallion, and above and beneath the decoration the following verse:

Now, now, my dear Poll, I'm landed again,
And shiners great plenty have got.
Let us join hand and heart, never to part,
But share for ever our lot.

The "shiners" is doubtless a reference to the nice, shiny silver he has saved.

A clever naval-type valentine of the same period depicts a large sailing ship. A tab on the side of the ship can be pulled out, and when this happens, the receiver of the valentine can peer into the hold where a little cupid is shown hovering over a sailor.

As time went on, the verses of the valentines became more and more sentimental. At the same time, the valentines became more and more ornamental. Beautifully-wrought lacework was used, and some swains spent as high as hundreds of dollars for particularly elaborate valentines.

The custom of sending valentines began in this country during the middle of the eighteenth century. The earliest ones were quite simple, but the verses gushed with sentimentality. The first ones were made by hand, and an examination of those still in existence indicate that it must have taken the senders hours to make and compose.

The verses were direct, and came right to the heart of the matter. The poetry may have been bad, but the sentiment left no doubt as to the meaning. A typical example:

I've often thought I would send,
A valentine to some dear friend,
Now, though I've many friends, 'tis true,
My preference is all for you,
For if the truth must be confessed,
Believe me, I like you the best.

The answering valentine was just as direct:

Dear Sir: Indeed, you're very kind,
I'm quite overjoyed to know your mind,
I did receive your valentine,
Now in return I send you mine.

It was first thought that the comic valentines were a reaction in fairly modern times to the very sentimental old-fashioned ones. However, there has recently been unearthed a large number and variety of comic valentines dated all the way back to the beginning.

One, dated 1830, bearing an English manufacturer's name, reads:

Ods Bobs, I'll never wed with you,
And leave my rose smiling Sue,
With all thy pelf, thou shan't be mine,
Thou ugly wrinkled valentine.

The Civil War soldier, obviously a vain person who thought more of his bravery than others did, must have been red-faced when he received this one:

You are a gallant soldier,
With a splendid figure for parade;
The country is safe in your keeping,
So long as you fight in the shade.

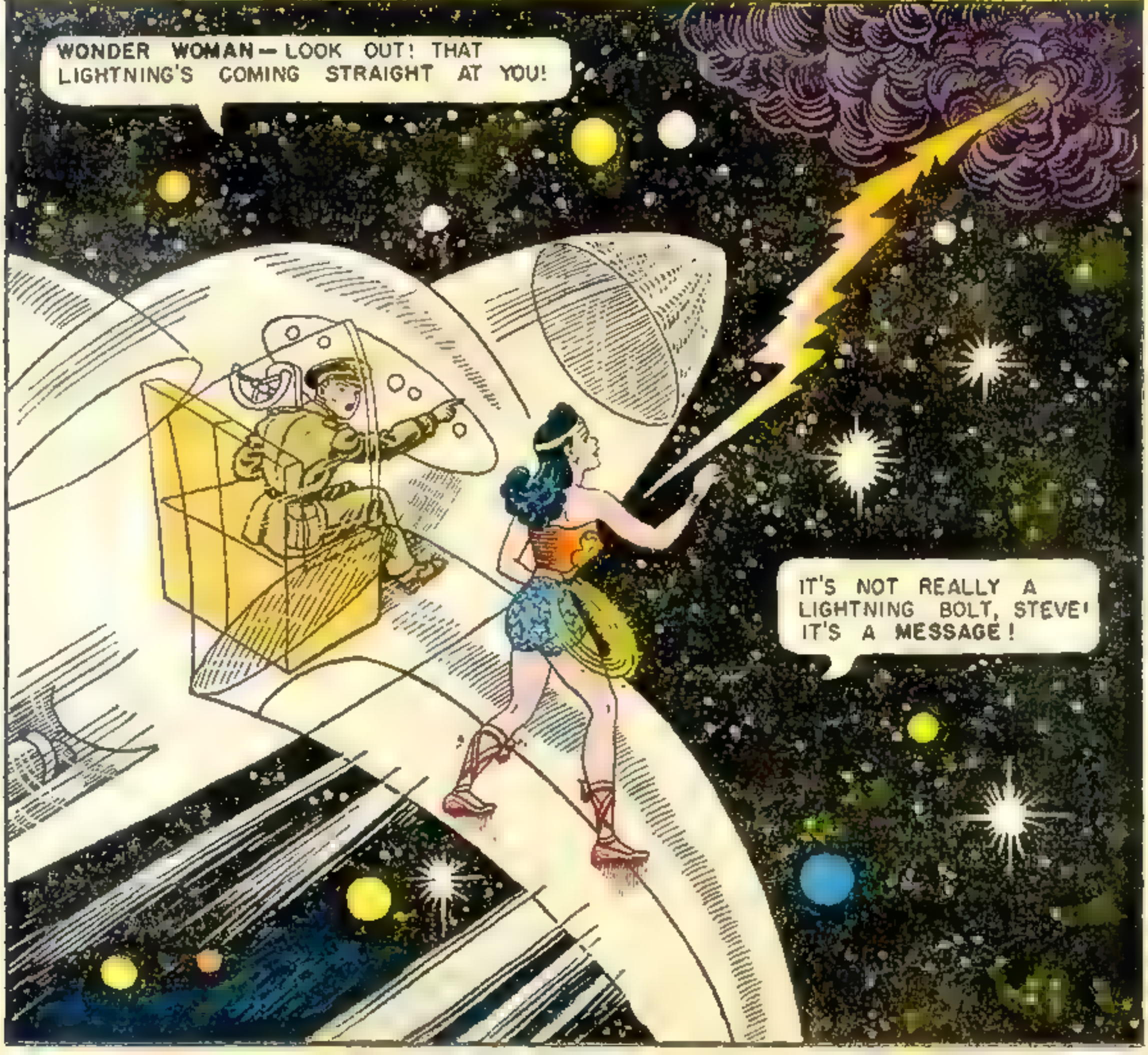
Soldiers of today, however, don't get such rough treatment on St. Valentine's Day. Typical of the kind crowding the shelves of card stores nowadays is the one depicting a pretty girl pointing at a handsome man in uniform, and in big scrawling letters, the direct message: "Soldier, you're MY priority!"

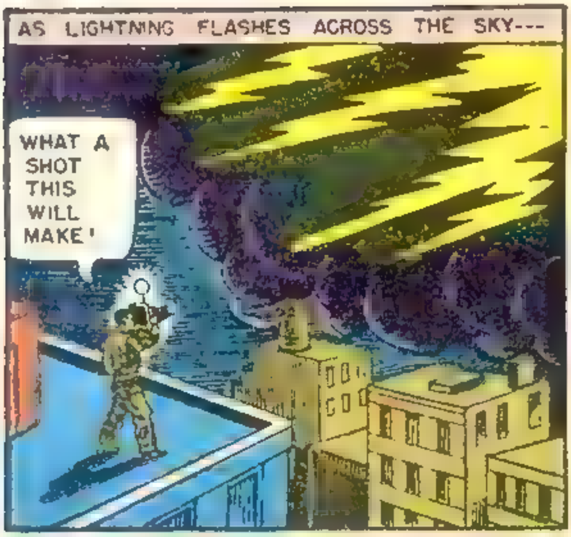
Wonder Woman

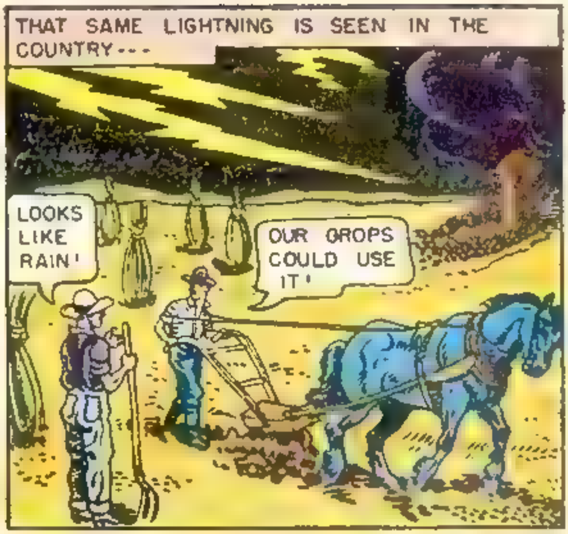
By CHARLES MOULTON

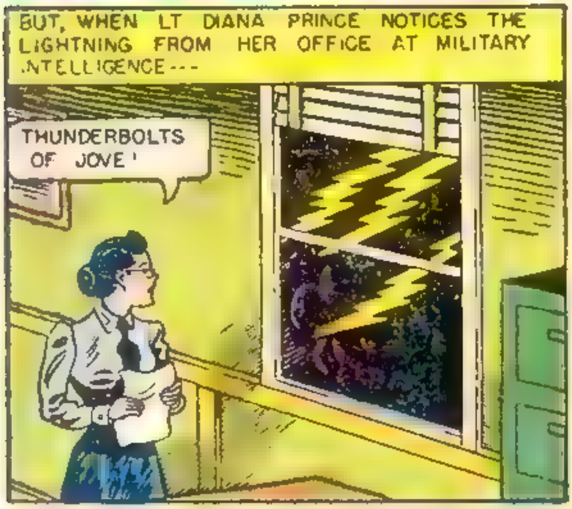
HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU EXCLAIMED AT THE AWESOME BEAUTY OF LIGHTNING FLASHING ACROSS THE SKY? BUT HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE IT CAME FROM — AND WHY? LET **WONDER WOMAN** — BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, WISE AS ATHENA, SWIFTER THAN MERCURY, AND STRONGER THAN HERCULES — TELL YOU THE INCREDIBLE TALE OF THE UNIQUE LIGHTNING THAT CONVEYED A STARTLING MESSAGE TO HER IN THE BREATHLESS ADVENTURE OF ......

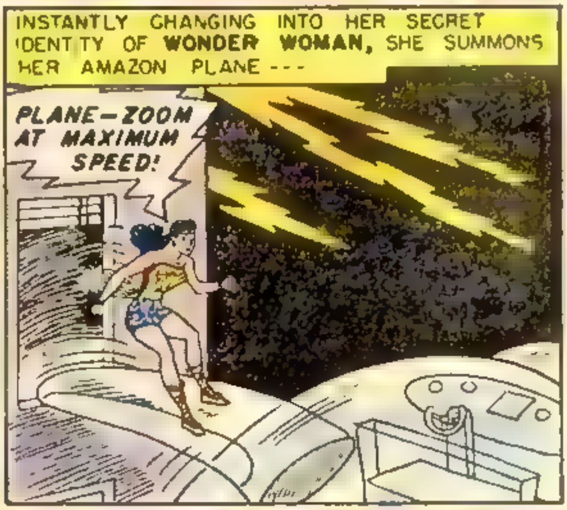
"SOS-SATURN!"

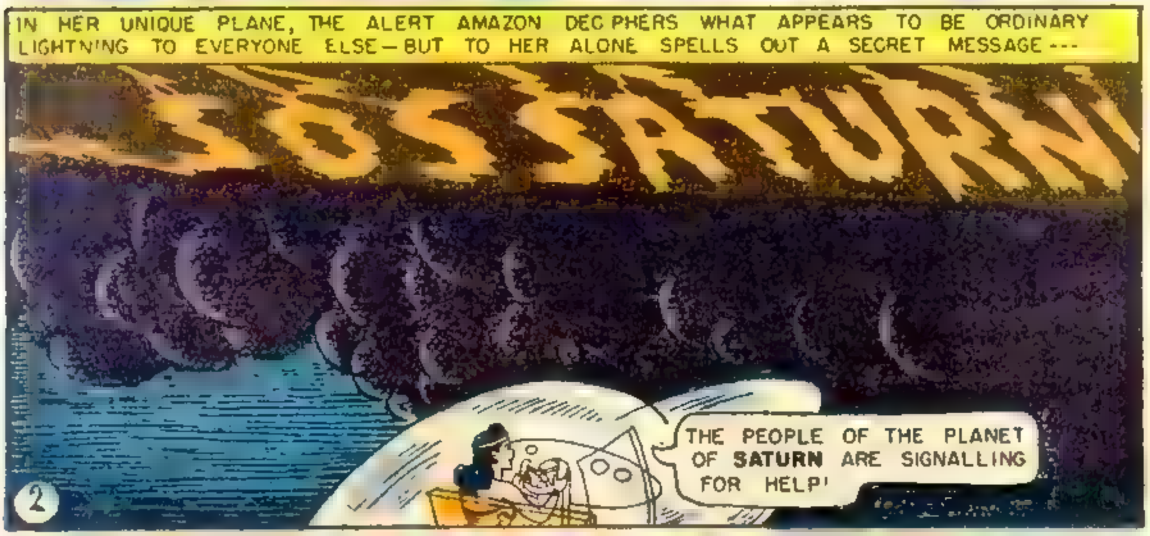

WONDER WOMAN — LOOK OUT! THAT LIGHTNING'S COMING STRAIGHT AT YOU!
IT'S NOT REALLY A LIGHTNING BOLT, STEVE! IT'S A MESSAGE!

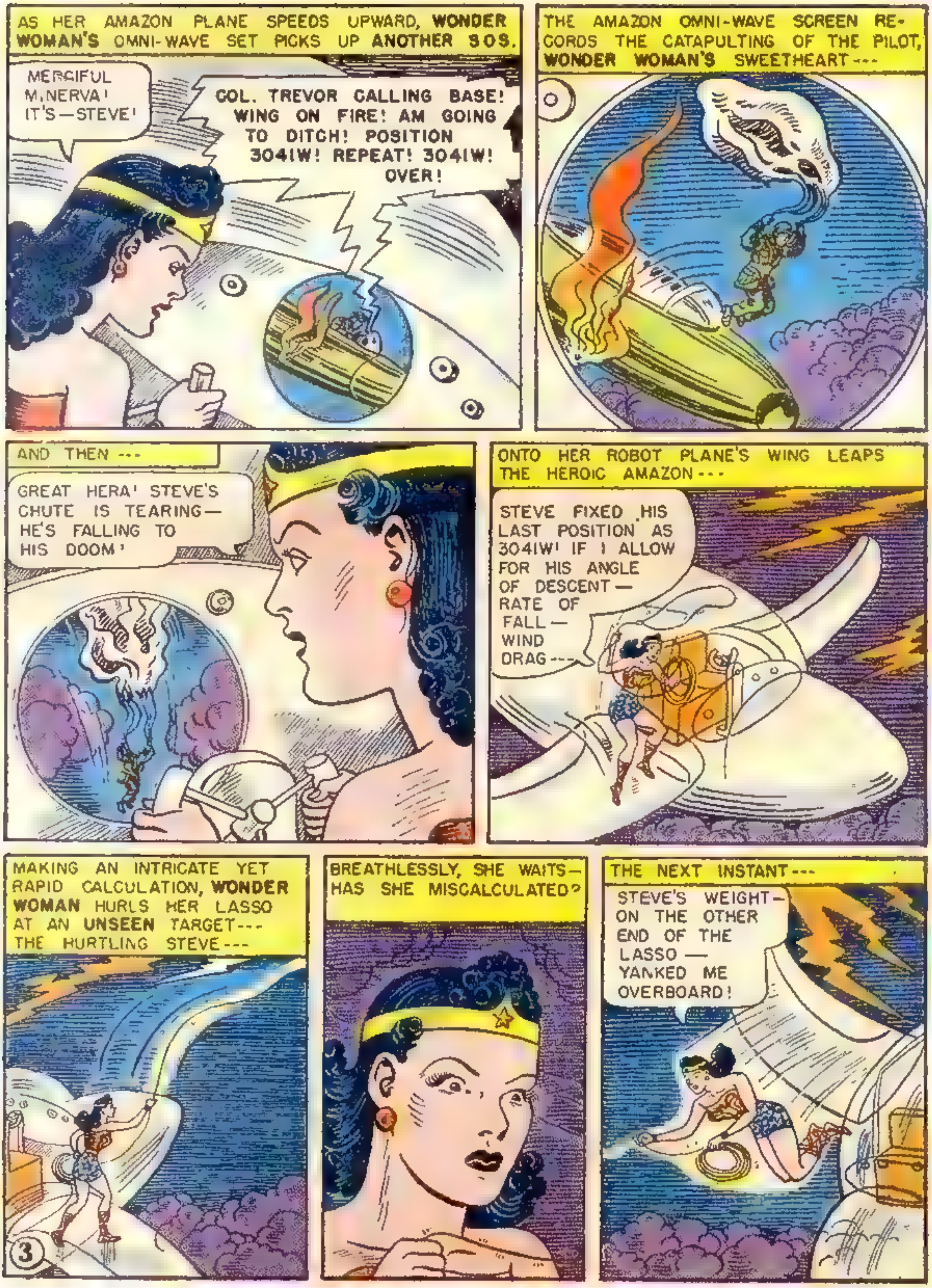

AS LIGHTNING FLASHES ACROSS THE SKY---
WHAT A SHOT THIS WILL MAKE!

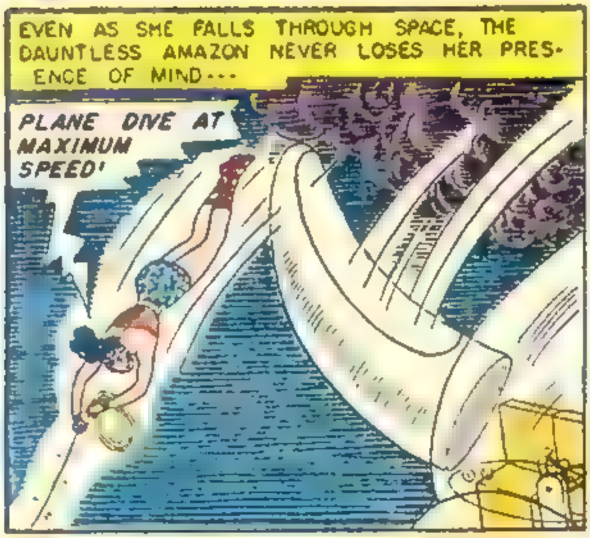

THAT SAME LIGHTNING IS SEEN IN THE COUNTRY---
LOOKS LIKE RAIN!
OUR CROPS COULD USE IT!

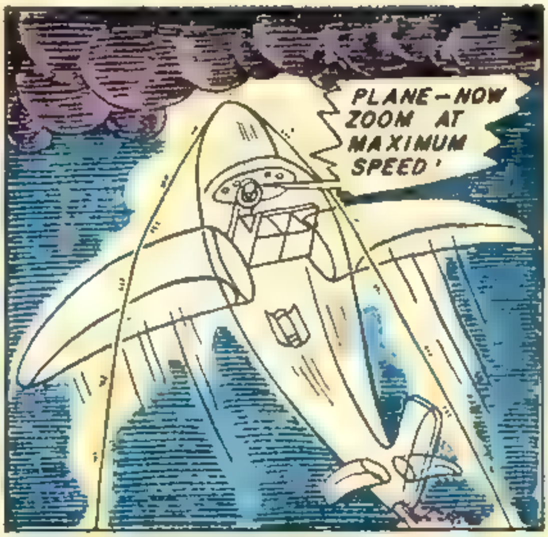

BUT, WHEN LT DIANA PRINCE NOTICES THE LIGHTNING FROM HER OFFICE AT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE---
THUNDERBOLTS OF JOVE!

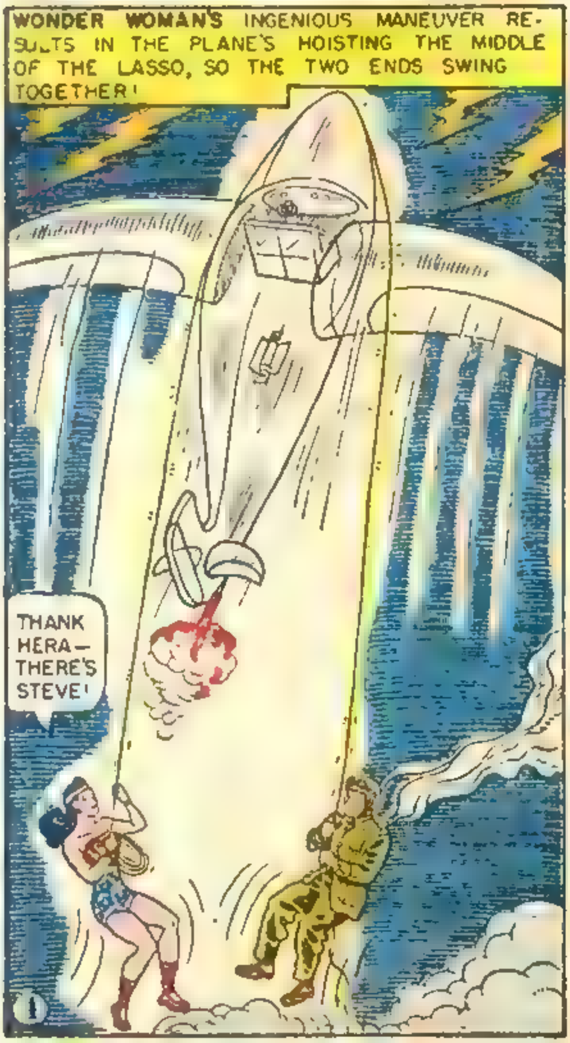

INSTANTLY CHANGING INTO HER SECRET IDENTITY OF **WONDER WOMAN,** SHE SUMMONS HER AMAZON PLANE---
PLANE—ZOOM AT MAXIMUM SPEED!

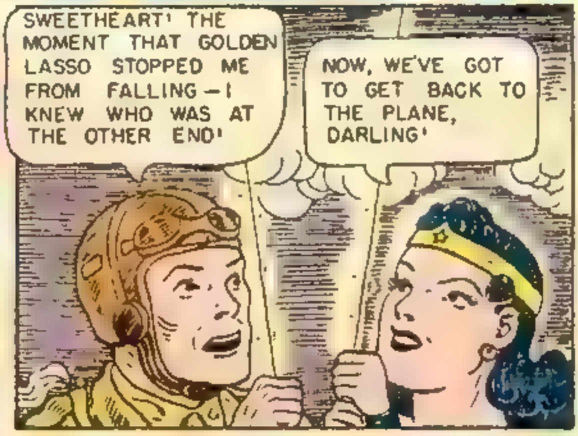

IN HER UNIQUE PLANE, THE ALERT AMAZON DECIPHERS WHAT APPEARS TO BE ORDINARY LIGHTNING TO EVERYONE ELSE—BUT TO HER ALONE SPELLS OUT A SECRET MESSAGE---
SOS SATURN!
THE PEOPLE OF THE PLANET OF **SATURN** ARE SIGNALLING FOR HELP!

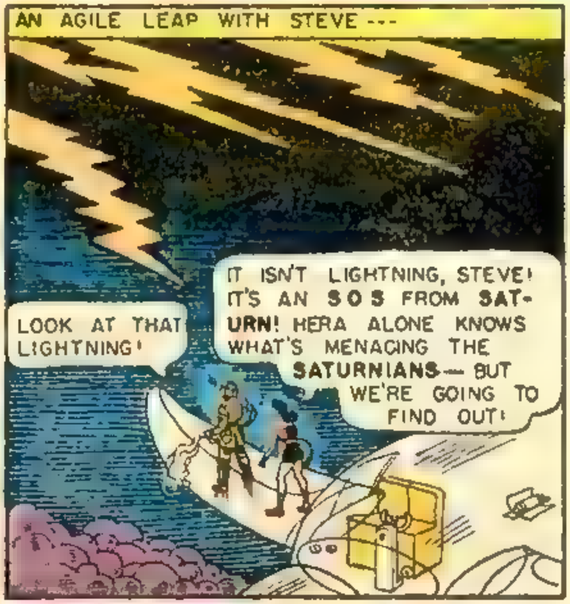

AS HER AMAZON PLANE SPEEDS UPWARD, WONDER WOMAN'S OMNI-WAVE SET PICKS UP ANOTHER S O S.
MERCIFUL MINERVA! IT'S—STEVE!
COL. TREVOR CALLING BASE! WING ON FIRE! AM GOING TO DITCH! POSITION 3041W! REPEAT! 3041W! OVER!
THE AMAZON OMNI-WAVE SCREEN RECORDS THE CATAPULTING OF THE PILOT, WONDER WOMAN'S SWEETHEART---
AND THEN ---
GREAT HERA! STEVE'S CHUTE IS TEARING—HE'S FALLING TO HIS DOOM!
ONTO HER ROBOT PLANE'S WING LEAPS THE HEROIC AMAZON ---
STEVE FIXED HIS LAST POSITION AS 3041W! IF I ALLOW FOR HIS ANGLE OF DESCENT—RATE OF FALL—WIND DRAG---
MAKING AN INTRICATE YET RAPID CALCULATION, WONDER WOMAN HURLS HER LASSO AT AN UNSEEN TARGET---THE HURTLING STEVE---
BREATHLESSLY, SHE WAITS—HAS SHE MISCALCULATED?
THE NEXT INSTANT ---
STEVE'S WEIGHT—ON THE OTHER END OF THE LASSO—YANKED ME OVERBOARD!

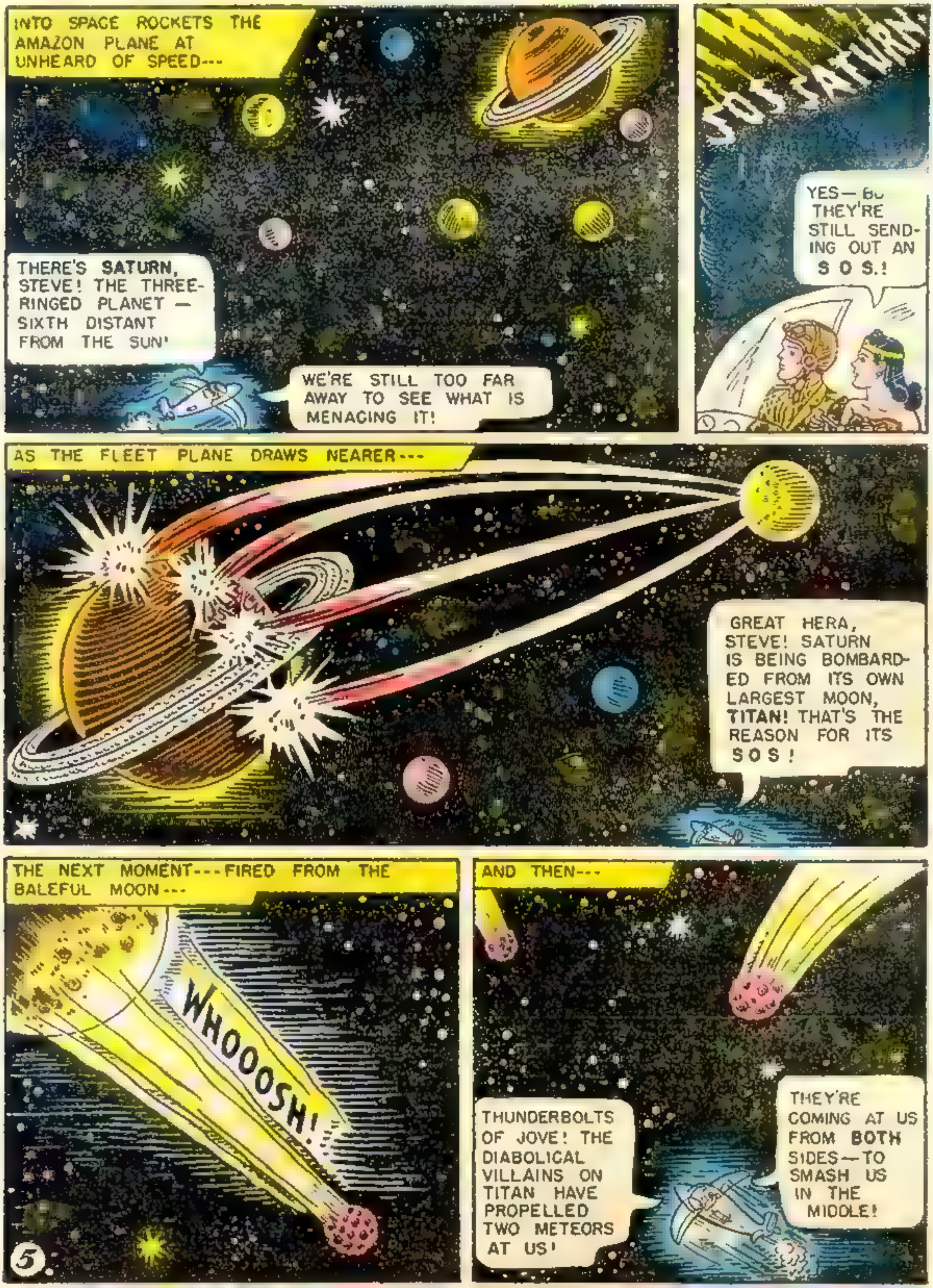

EVEN AS SHE FALLS THROUGH SPACE, THE DAUNTLESS AMAZON NEVER LOSES HER PRESENCE OF MIND---
PLANE DIVE AT MAXIMUM SPEED!

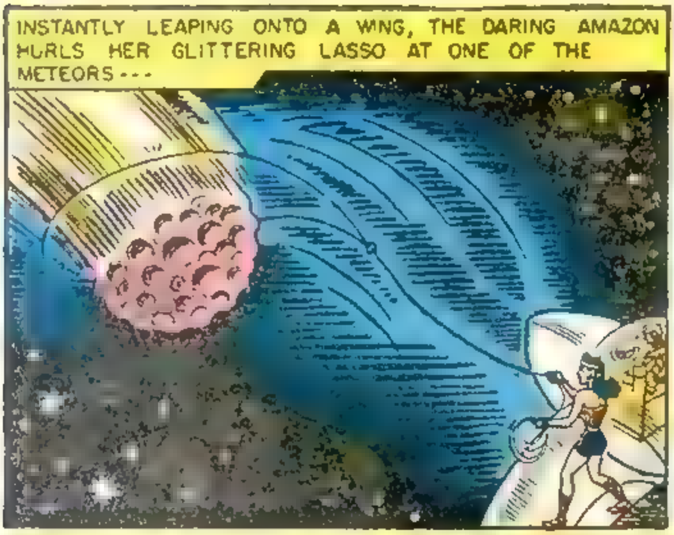

PLANE—NOW ZOOM AT MAXIMUM SPEED!

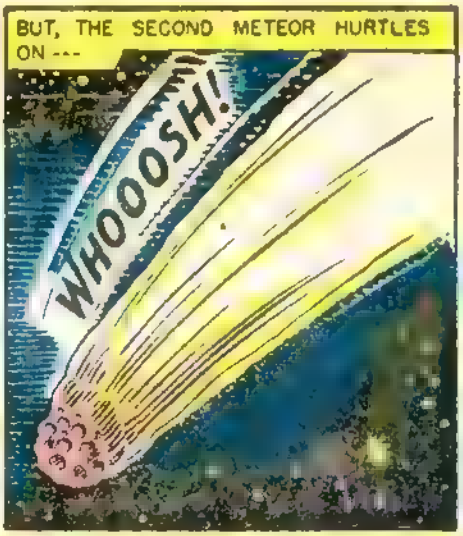

WONDER WOMAN'S INGENIOUS MANEUVER RESULTS IN THE PLANE'S HOISTING THE MIDDLE OF THE LASSO, SO THE TWO ENDS SWING TOGETHER!
THANK HERA— THERE'S STEVE!

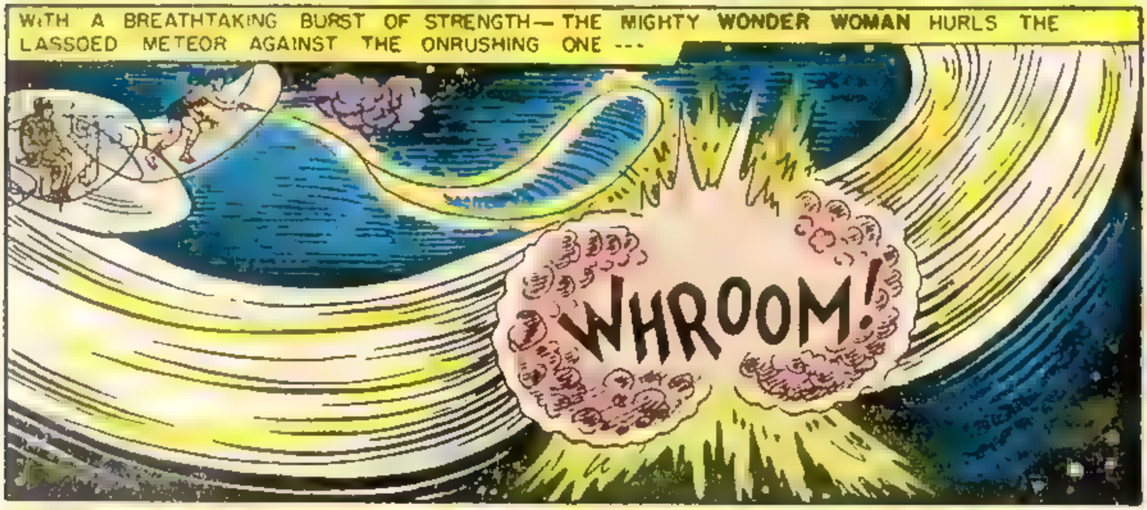

SWEETHEART! THE MOMENT THAT GOLDEN LASSO STOPPED ME FROM FALLING—I KNEW WHO WAS AT THE OTHER END!
NOW, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE PLANE, DARLING!

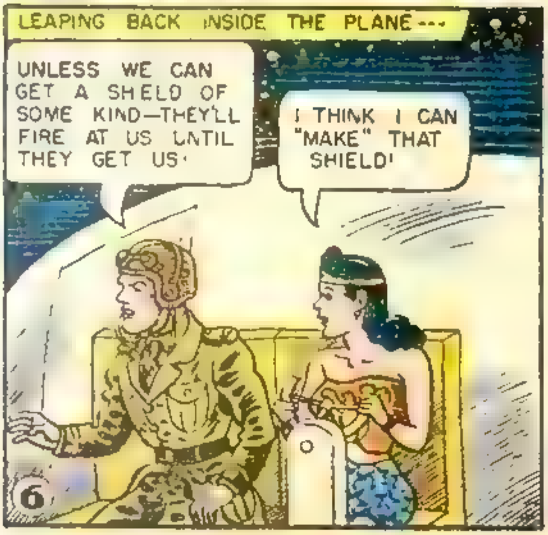

AN AGILE LEAP WITH STEVE---
LOOK AT THAT LIGHTNING!
IT ISN'T LIGHTNING, STEVE! IT'S AN SOS FROM SATURN! HERA ALONE KNOWS WHAT'S MENACING THE SATURNIANS— BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!

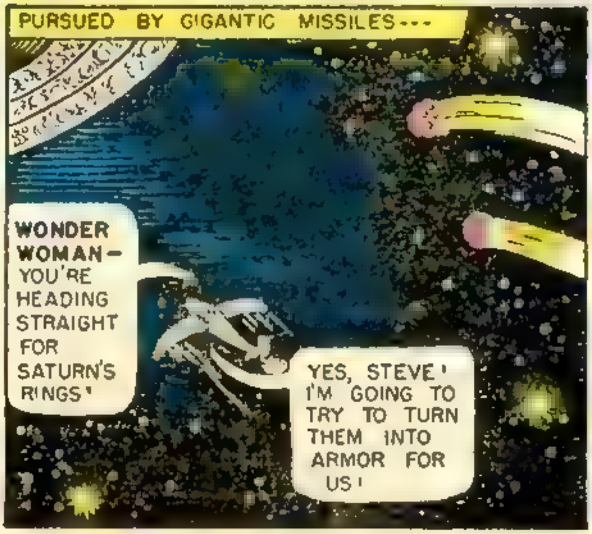

INTO SPACE ROCKETS THE AMAZON PLANE AT UNHEARD OF SPEED---
THERE'S SATURN, STEVE! THE THREE-RINGED PLANET — SIXTH DISTANT FROM THE SUN!
WE'RE STILL TOO FAR AWAY TO SEE WHAT IS MENACING IT!
SOS SATURN!
YES— BU THEY'RE STILL SENDING OUT AN S O S.!
AS THE FLEET PLANE DRAWS NEARER---
GREAT HERA, STEVE! SATURN IS BEING BOMBARDED FROM ITS OWN LARGEST MOON, TITAN! THAT'S THE REASON FOR ITS SOS!
THE NEXT MOMENT---FIRED FROM THE BALEFUL MOON---
WHOOOSH!
AND THEN---
THUNDERBOLTS OF JOVE! THE DIABOLICAL VILLAINS ON TITAN HAVE PROPELLED TWO METEORS AT US!
THEY'RE COMING AT US FROM BOTH SIDES—TO SMASH US IN THE MIDDLE!

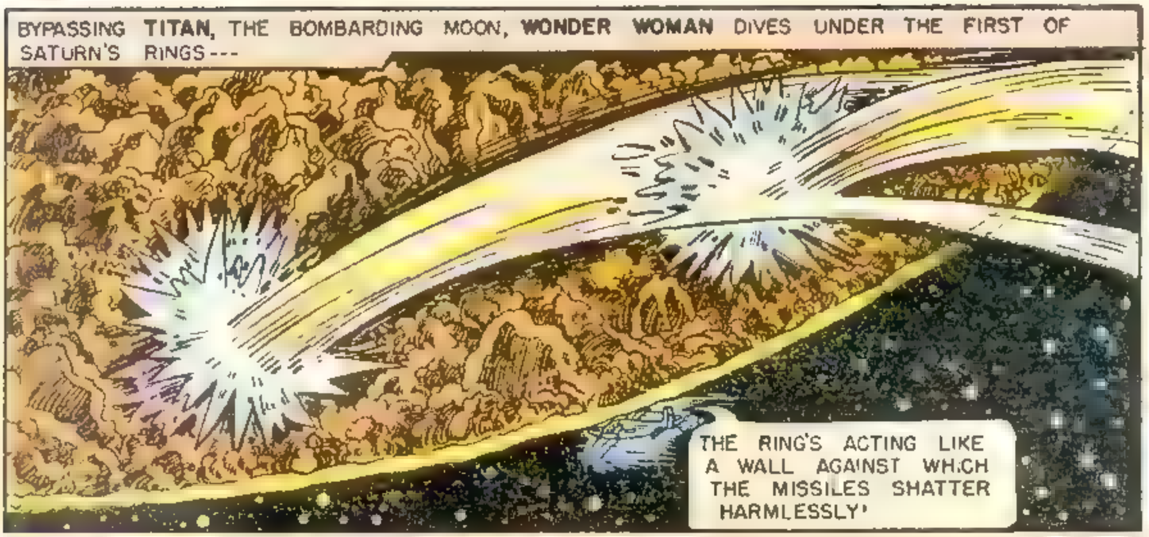

INSTANTLY LEAPING ONTO A WING, THE DARING AMAZON HURLS HER GLITTERING LASSO AT ONE OF THE METEORS---

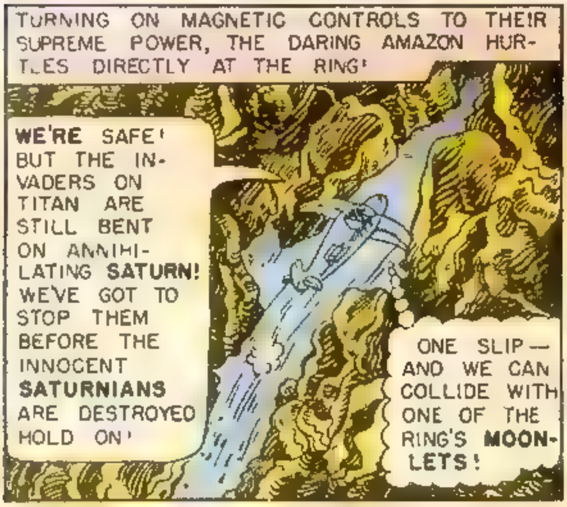

BUT, THE SECOND METEOR HURTLES ON---
WHOOOSH!

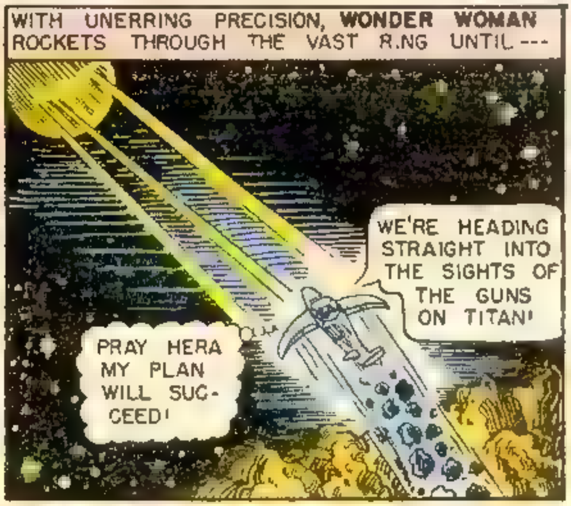

WITH A BREATHTAKING BURST OF STRENGTH— THE MIGHTY **WONDER WOMAN** HURLS THE LASSOED METEOR AGAINST THE ONRUSHING ONE ---
WHROOM!

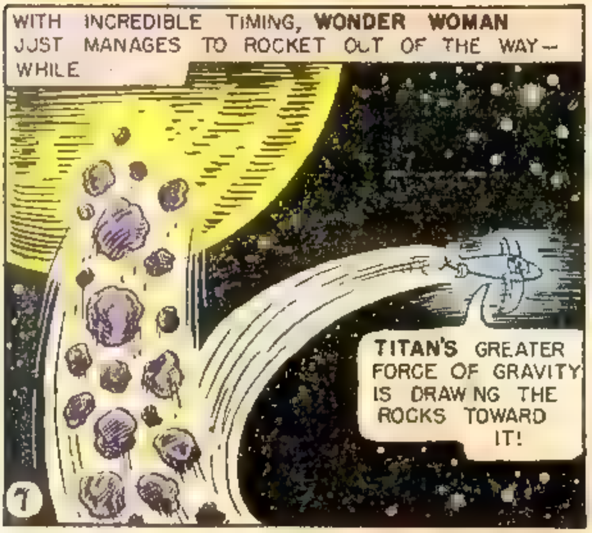

LEAPING BACK INSIDE THE PLANE---
UNLESS WE CAN GET A SHIELD OF SOME KIND—THEY'LL FIRE AT US UNTIL THEY GET US!
I THINK I CAN "MAKE" THAT SHIELD!

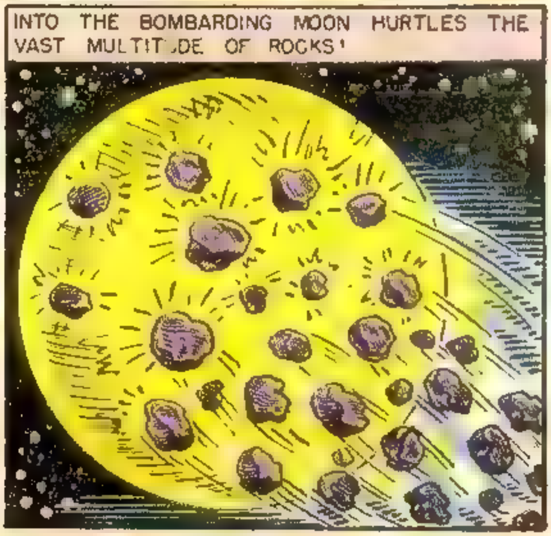

PURSUED BY GIGANTIC MISSILES---
WONDER WOMAN— YOU'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR SATURN'S RINGS!
YES, STEVE! I'M GOING TO TRY TO TURN THEM INTO ARMOR FOR US!

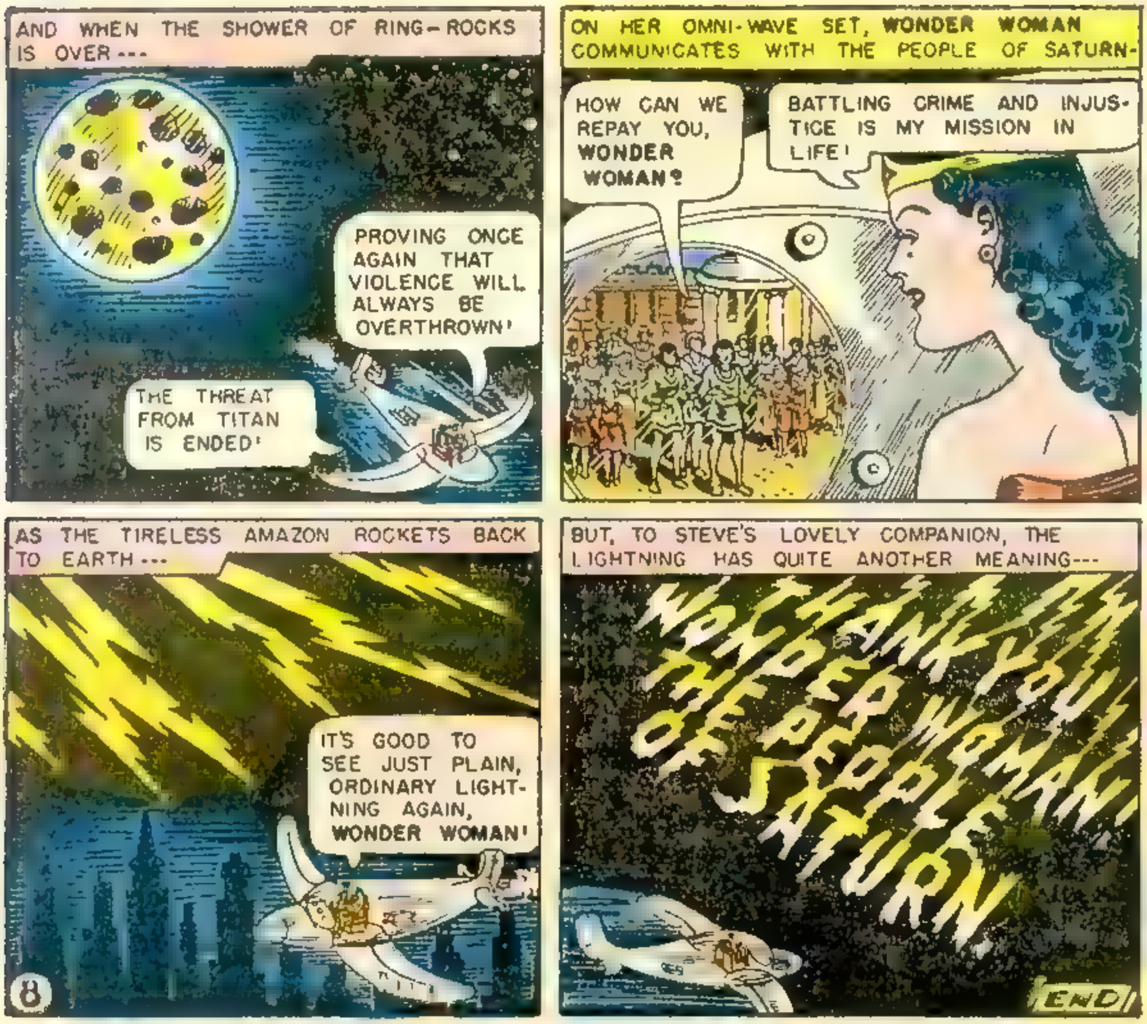

BYPASSING **TITAN,** THE BOMBARDING MOON, **WONDER WOMAN** DIVES UNDER THE FIRST OF SATURN'S RINGS---
THE RING'S ACTING LIKE A WALL AGAINST WHICH THE MISSILES SHATTER HARMLESSLY!


TURNING ON MAGNETIC CONTROLS TO THEIR SUPREME POWER, THE DARING AMAZON HURTLES DIRECTLY AT THE RING!
WE'RE SAFE! BUT THE INVADERS ON TITAN ARE STILL BENT ON ANNIHILATING **SATURN!** WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM BEFORE THE INNOCENT **SATURNIANS** ARE DESTROYED HOLD ON!
ONE SLIP— AND WE CAN COLLIDE WITH ONE OF THE RING'S **MOONLETS!**


WITH UNERRING PRECISION, **WONDER WOMAN** ROCKETS THROUGH THE VAST RING UNTIL---
WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT INTO THE SIGHTS OF THE GUNS ON TITAN!
PRAY HERA MY PLAN WILL SUCCEED!


WITH INCREDIBLE TIMING, **WONDER WOMAN** JUST MANAGES TO ROCKET OUT OF THE WAY--WHILE
TITAN'S GREATER FORCE OF GRAVITY IS DRAWING THE ROCKS TOWARD IT!


INTO THE BOMBARDING MOON HURTLES THE VAST MULTITUDE OF ROCKS!


AND WHEN THE SHOWER OF RING-ROCKS IS OVER---
PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT VIOLENCE WILL ALWAYS BE OVERTHROWN!
THE THREAT FROM TITAN IS ENDED!
ON HER OMNI-WAVE SET, WONDER WOMAN COMMUNICATES WITH THE PEOPLE OF SATURN-
HOW CAN WE REPAY YOU, WONDER WOMAN?
BATTLING CRIME AND INJUSTICE IS MY MISSION IN LIFE!
AS THE TIRELESS AMAZON ROCKETS BACK TO EARTH---
IT'S GOOD TO SEE JUST PLAIN, ORDINARY LIGHTNING AGAIN, WONDER WOMAN!
8
BUT, TO STEVE'S LOVELY COMPANION, THE LIGHTNING HAS QUITE ANOTHER MEANING---
THANK YOU WONDER WOMAN! THE PEOPLE OF SATURN.
END

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912 AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION OF WONDER WOMAN, published 8 times yearly at Sparta, Illinois for October 1, 1955

1 The names and addresses of the Publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are Publisher, National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Avenue New York 17, N. Y. Editor, F. W. Ellsworth, 480 Lexington Avenue New York 17 N. Y. Managing Editor none Business Manager, J. S. Liebowitz 480 Lexington Avenue New York 17, N. Y.

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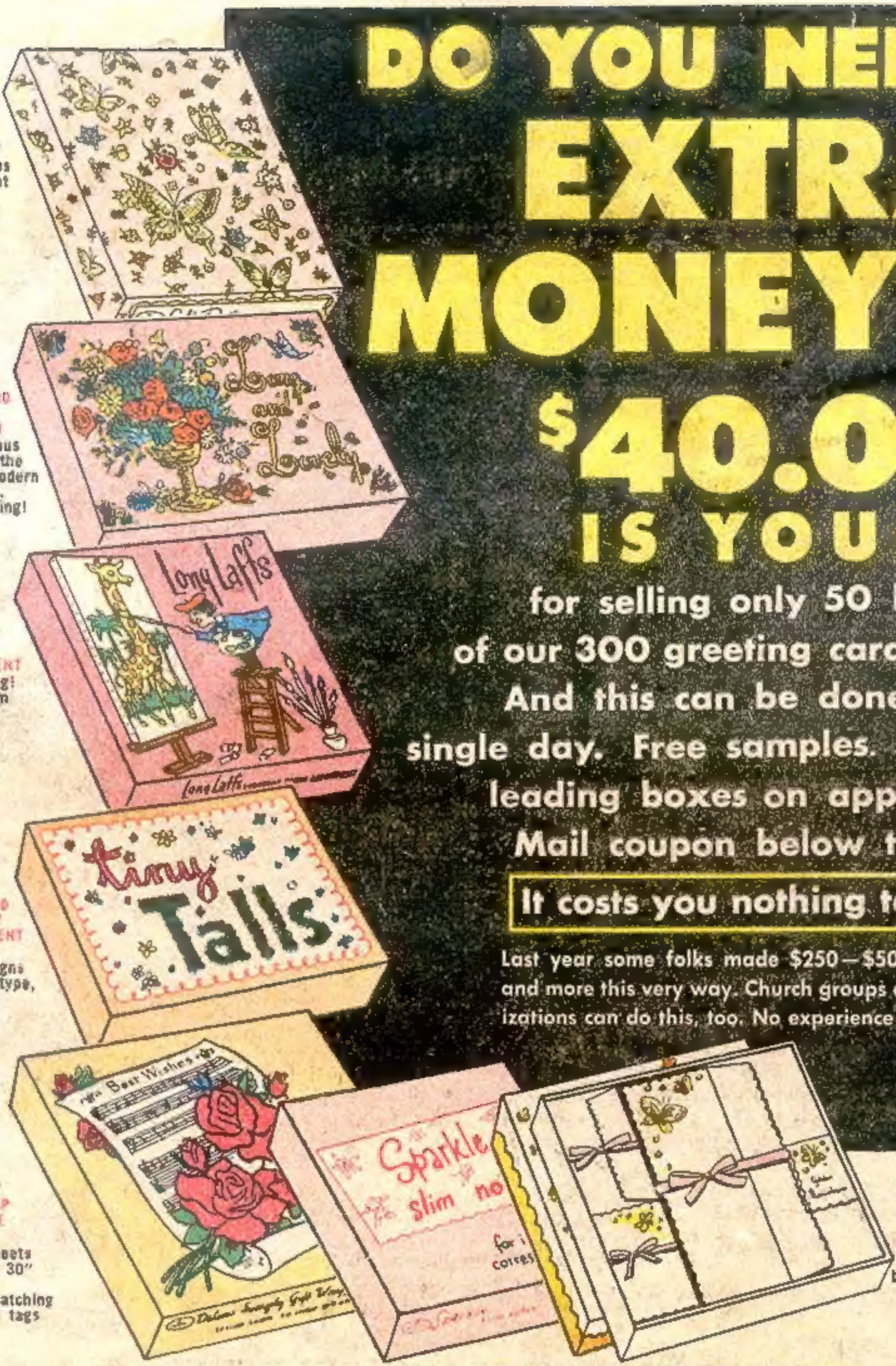
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